

# WatchOut

Community safety news for Notts

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Children need to be taught about the dangers of misbehaving on open water

## Be safe water campaign

By Peter Faulkner

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) put its weight behind a national campaign on water safety and drowning prevention in an attempt to raise awareness of the dangers associated with open water.**

There have been more than 200 water related incidents in Nottinghamshire since 2010 and this latest initiative, which has been organised by The Chief

Fire Officers Association (CFOA), encourages people to stay alert and keep safety in mind when near lakes and rivers.

Nationally, a total of 302 people accidentally drowned in the year 2014 alone and, out of that figure, 44 per cent were taking part in everyday activities and had no intention of entering the water.

"Open water might not initially seem

like a risk when you don't plan to get in, but as these figures show, it can be," said Crew Manager Leigh Holmes, who is one of the Service's Swift Water Rescue Technicians.

"Even on hot days during the summer months the temperature of open water in somewhere like the River Trent, for example, can still remain quite low and this can be really dangerous.

**Continued over**

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# Firefighters join in water safety event

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"There are also hidden dangers beneath the surface that could cause you harm and water is often untreated, meaning it could be carrying bacteria and algae that has the potential to make you ill.

"For these reasons we would really encourage people to be extra careful around open bodies of water such as lakes, rivers and reservoirs – whether you're intending to get in or not."

As well as carrying out regular water rescue training, responding to water related incidents and getting behind the CFOA campaign, the Service also works with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to educate young people on the dangers surrounding open water at Ashfield Fire Station's annual Safety Zone event.

Over the course of the week-long water safety campaign, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service focussed on different themes relating to water safety in line with the national initiative – targeting a range of people from walkers to anglers and young people to dog walkers.

"Most people would be shocked to hear that some of the people that are drowning just happen to be near water such as runners, walkers and fishermen," added Dawn Whittaker, CFOA's Water Safety Lead.

"They are unaware of the risks and completely unprepared for the scenario of ending up in the water. By highlighting this issue and making sure simple safety messages reach them we hope to reduce the number of these needless deaths."



**MEET the Nottinghamshire Police record breakers who have earned a place in the Guinness World Record books for the largest number of people being trained in first aid in one lesson.**

The lesson was held at the Chesterfield ProAct Football Stadium to celebrate its 150th anniversary and took 30 minutes to complete. A total of 1,795 local students and more than 150 volunteers took part, including nine Nottinghamshire Police employees.

Students travelled from Chesterfield, Dronfield, Whitwell, Derby, Tibshelf, Alferton and Nottingham for the event and received a medal and certificate recognising them as 'record breakers.'

The team from Nottinghamshire Police helped train the students in key lifesaving skills, including CPR. The previous record was set at 1,700 people by Emirates Transport at Abu Dhabi National Theatre in 2013.

## Dead? Don't you believe it

**THE big question for Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch (aka NottsWatch) and Nottinghamshire Police seems to be whether the Watch movement is dead or alive.**

NottsWatch and the Police have now drawn up a comprehensive Service Level Agreement that will strengthen the working relationship between the two partners, by defining specific commitments and procedures to support each other in our mutual efforts to keep communities safe.

But the group was more than a little surprised to receive an email from a resident who claimed that at a recent Parish Council meeting, the local Police Constable said he believed Neighbourhood Watch is now defunct.

For the benefit of everyone, rest assured that nothing could be further from the truth – the Neighbourhood Watch movement is very much alive and kicking.

**Why should you support/join/establish a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?**

The whole NW movement is now professionally structured and is recognised by the Home Office

and the Police as the national representative.

NottsWatch is a member of NHWN and is accepted as representing both the City of Nottingham & the County of Nottinghamshire.

All coordinators of registered schemes are covered by indemnity insurance up to £10 million whilst effective NHW schemes can reduce crime and the fear of crime

As a result of this structure, wherever it has a presence, the NW movement can use the capabilities of this volunteer resource to strengthen and assist the Police and other partners and agencies in order to prevent and reduce crime & the fear of crime.

Effective NHW schemes can improve community cohesion, improve community safety and co-operation by way of increased resident participation, and neighbourliness and as a consequence, this has the effect of reducing the opportunity for victimisation and the consequences of crime.

Are we dead or alive? Very much alive and growing. For more information see [www.nottswatch.co.uk](http://www.nottswatch.co.uk) or contact us at [admin@nottswatch.co.uk](mailto:admin@nottswatch.co.uk).



### 'Deaf' charity collector is sent to prison

A THIEF who posed as a deaf charity collector to steal smartphones from victims across Kent has been jailed for 17 months.

Dumitrou Marin, 27, of Allington Avenue, Nottingham, distracted his targets using a variety of techniques and used objects such as clipboards and newspapers to hide their belongings from view.

He was arrested following an investigation by Kent Police's Operation Jupiter team and admitted 16 offences committed between 12 January and 26 February 2015.

Marin was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court to form multiple offences.

The offences were committed at addresses in Kent and a number of offences were also committed in East and West Sussex.

Officers were able to link Marin with CCTV footage captured at several of the crime scenes as well as a Volkswagen Passat they could prove was in Medway, Maidstone and Canterbury on the days offences were committed.

Investigating officer PC Danny James said: 'In almost all of these cases Dumitrou Marin presented himself as a pushy and aggressive charity collector, invading his victims' personal space while he or an accomplice stole their smartphones.'

"He would pretend to be deaf in an attempt to prey on the good nature of his victims and convince people he was legitimate, which in itself is deeply offensive."

### Death of a legend

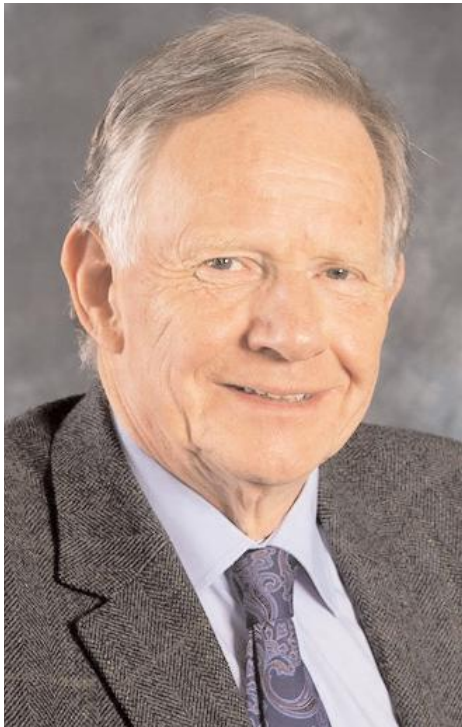
THE death of a legendary figure in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City - Martin Suthers OBE - has been announced.

Councillor Suthers, deputy leader of the Conservative Group at Nottinghamshire County Council, was a "towering figure" in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City for many years, having served as Lord Mayor of Nottingham in 1988-89 and as a county councillor since 2000.

His wife Pippa led the many tributes calling her husband "a gentle man and gentleman who was much loved and respected for his kindness, wisdom, gravitas, humour and fairness with everyone."

"During Martin's short illness he was deeply touched and overwhelmed by the number of cards and letters he received, and in his typical unassuming style was somewhat bemused that he was so well thought of and much loved by so many people."

Councillor Anthony May, said: "This is a sad day for Nottinghamshire County Council, its officers, members and the people of Bingham, who Martin represented with such enthusiasm and passion. Most of all though, this is a sad time for Martin's family and friends. He was a lovely man, a gentleman, respected by everyone who came into contact with him."



The late Martin Suthers

### Dispersal orders

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Police is using Dispersal Order powers in a bid to tackle high levels of antisocial behaviour in the Coronation Park area of Eastwood.

The order gives officers dealing with people in Coronation Park who are believed to be engaging in antisocial behaviour the power to prohibit those people from returning to the area for up to 48 hours.

The order came into force in May and is being implemented in response to an increasing number of reports of antisocial behaviour.

Much of the behaviour appears to be centred on the new skate park which is still under construction.

On more than one occasion, youths have forced their way through the fencing to gain access to the skate park and, in one instance, damage was caused to the machinery being used to build the skate park.

On another occasion Nottinghamshire Police received a report of a group of up to 30 youths throwing objects onto the bowling green whilst a game is in progress and trying to gain entry to the pavilion.

### Two officers honoured

THE work of two of Nottinghamshire's most senior female officers has been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Deputy Chief Constable Sue Fish has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) and Inspector Gurmit Kaur will receive an MBE for her services to policing.

DCC Fish, who began her career as a constable in Nottingham in 1986 will take over as the force's Chief Constable in June following

the retirement of Chris Eyre.

She said she was delighted to have been nominated for the QPM, which is awarded for distinguished service.

Gurmit Kaur became Nottinghamshire's first Asian female police inspector in 2003, having previously worked with youth and community groups to deliver programmes including Drugs Abuse Resistance Education.

Since she became an inspector she has been extremely influential in developing excellent police and community relations across the city.

She spent six years as Neighbourhood Policing Inspector in New Basford, Hyson Green and Forest Fields before taking up her current post as Community Cohesion

### Downfall of hero PC

A HERO police officer who won a bravery award for tackling a gunman has been sacked for flogging counterfeit goods on eBay.

Pc Jason Leigh was dismissed without notice for what Chief Constable David Thompson described as "manifestly shameful behaviour."

Colleague Pc Kristian Jones was also sacked over the fake eBay sales and both officers were previously prosecuted at court over the scam.

A misconduct hearing was told the officers bought counterfeit goods from a Chinese website called AliExpress and then sold them on the online auction site as if they were the genuine items.

The force gave no details about the goods but said the sales took place between September 11, 2014 and February 11, 2015.

Pc Leigh was presented with a Chief Constable bravery award along with five of his colleagues in November 2014.

The officers were commended for tackling a gunman who had pointed and fired his gun at them during a domestic incident in Wolverhampton in May 2013.

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■ Firefighters in Nottinghamshire have always had a unique partnership with Croatia going back several years.

In 2014 firefighters in Sveti Durd got a new fire station and fire engine thanks to the Service, military charity Infrastructure Training and Assistance Projects (ITAP) and asset finance business Asset Advantage.

The three organisations joined forces to ensure that fire crews based in Sveti Durd, in Varazdin County, had the equipment and resources they need to continue fighting fires in the 50 small communities they serve in northern Croatia.

Four NFRS employees



also agreed to help train 30 Gurkha soldiers in fire fighting

skills, which they passed on to rural communities in Nepal

where they are establishing volunteer fire services.

## Firefighters Croatian mission

A TEAM from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) made a trip to Croatia last month to donate two of the Service's 'end of life' fire engines to firefighters there.

The venture, which comes a year after the Service donated two other fire engines to the communities in Croatia and Nepal, will also see the team deliver training to the Croatian crews on how to use the new pumping equipment, how to safely use a 13.5 metre ladder and how to deal with road traffic collisions.

In total the NFRS team, made up of Watch Managers Kevin Ruane MBE, Wayne Henson, John McEvoy and firefighter Georgina Bellingham, will be travelling almost 1,200 miles to Mali Bukovec.

The NFRS staff – who are all volunteering

their own time – will also be joined on their journey by retired Fire and Rescue Service trainers, Grant Smith and Dave Evans.

The decision to donate the two appliances was made by the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority's Policy and Strategy Committee.

"We are really pleased to be gifting another two fire engines to two different communities in Croatia that are far less fortunate than us," said Councillor Darrell Pulk, Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

"Here in the UK we are fortunate enough to have access to the very best equipment and also the very best training, however sadly this isn't the case for firefighters in some other countries that aren't actually that far away from us.

"These two appliances have served us well

for many years and helped us to create safer communities here in Nottinghamshire. I hope that they will now be used to create safer communities in Croatia."

Once the team have returned to Nottinghamshire one of the donated fire engines will remain in Mali Bukovec and serve the community there, while the other will be used by firefighters in Martijane.

Both these areas are covered by volunteer firefighters that cover 15 different villages with a total population of approximately 5,700 – their current fire appliances are now over 35 years old.

"I'm delighted that the Fire and Rescue Authority has again allowed us to take these two fire engines over to Croatia where they will be given a really important second life," said Watch Manager Kevin Ruane MBE.

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