

OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES



Hello and welcome to our June newsletter.

Wow! What a week we had not only celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but also Neighbourhood Watch's 40th Anniversary during Neighbourhood Watch Week.

The highlights have got to be seeing and hearing about all the new connections made within communities and celebrating existing relationships. Thank you for all your hard work in organising local events. Of course, June is the MONTH OF COMMUNITY, so please continue to get involved in events happening near you. More on page 5.

Our Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Conference 2022 was fantastic, with partners and volunteers collaborating on ideas and projects. After having limited face to face events over the past two years, it was such a joy to see people in 3D!

We are thrilled to have launched a LOTTERY last week as part of our fundraising. Learn more about how to take part in this on page 3.

This month we are focusing on cybercrime and three simple, easy ways that we can reduce our chances of becoming a victim of it by protecting our passwords. Find out more on page 2. Follow us on social media and share our campaign far and wide.

We hope that all the recent celebrations have stimulated fresh energy to continue to reach out to your neighbours, especially the lonely or isolated, and stay connected.

Keep safe!

**John Hayward-Cripps, CEO,
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK**

THANK YOU!!

We have been overwhelmed by a recent generous donation from an anonymous supporter. We want to take this opportunity to say a massive THANK YOU from all of us here in the Central Support Team; it is very much appreciated.

As a charity your donations enable us to develop and extend our vital network to strengthen communities and support crime prevention.

Crime doesn't go away, and the battle continues. Public support ensures our inroads on the ground are sustainable and continue to make a difference. All donations small and large are welcome!

Please visit ourwatch.org.uk/donate.

Thank you again, to our kind benefactor – words cannot express our gratitude enough.

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ACTION FUNDER

Follow us... ourwatch.org.uk



PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WORD Campaign



If strengthening your passwords is something you keep putting off, or you feel overwhelmed by the sea of online security information, you're not alone.

As part of our Cyberhood Watch initiative, launched in 2019 in partnership with Avast, we are re-running our PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WORD campaign that targets both the overwhelmed and complacent, providing everyone with 3 easy steps to be more secure online.

PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WORD in 3 easy steps

1. Create a separate password for your email account
2. Use 3 random words
3. Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

To find out more about how to do each step visit our [PASSWORDS](#) webpage.

How can you support our Protect your Pa\$\$WORD campaign?

Our campaign will run on our social channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn) for two weeks from 13th June to 26th June.

We want it to reach as many people as possible. To support the campaign simply:

1. Follow us on our social channels and share our posts
2. Visit our [Pa\\$\\$WORD](#) page to learn how to keep yourself safe

PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WORD IN 3 EASY STEPS



- 1 CREATE A SEPARATE PASSWORD FOR YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT
- 2 USE 3 RANDOM WORDS
- 3 TURN ON TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (2FA)

SHARE THESE 3 STEPS WITH 3 FRIENDS

ourwatch.org.uk/passwords

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349

DID YOU KNOW?

A new website has been launched to help make it easier to navigate the complexities of missing persons.

The [Missing Persons Information Hub \(MPIH\)](#) is aimed at anyone who may need help including professionals, academics and, most importantly, missing persons and their families and friends.

We have launched a lottery

onelottery



- Tickets cost ONLY £1 per week
- Weekly draws
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to Neighbourhood Watch Network

Support us and you could win prizes of up to £25,000

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349

We are a national charity covering England and Wales and supporting over 90,000 volunteers with a small staff team of just eight people.

We provide the public with crime prevention and community cohesion advice through our resources, newsletters, tools, and events. We support our 90,000 strong volunteers to keep their communities safe, inclusive, and vibrant places to live.

It doesn't cost a penny to be a member of the national movement; however, we rely on your support so that we can keep doing this.

To help us raise funds, we have joined ONE LOTTERY. Tickets cost only £1 per week, and you could win weekly prizes of up to £25,000! 50% of proceeds from all tickets sold from our page go to our charity. The remainder is spent on the prizes and the administration of the lottery.

How have we done this?

We have joined ONE LOTTERY managed by Gatherwell Ltd, current winner of The Lotteries Council 'Lottery Operator of the Year' and one of the leading lottery providers for good causes and charities in the UK.

What can I win?

Each week there is a national draw with the chance to win £25,000 and a Neighbourhood Watch Network draw for smaller amounts. The more people that enter, the greater the Neighbourhood Watch Network draw prize.

How can I take part?

That's easy. Visit onelottery.co.uk/support/neighbourhood-watch-network and buy your tickets. Our first draw is on Saturday 2nd July 2022, and after that, it will be weekly.

You can find out more [here](#).

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS HERE
TO BE IN FOR A CHANCE
OF WINNING AND SUPPORT
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK**

SMSFactory: The money-grabbing malware targeting Android users



A malware campaign targeting Android users across the globe is racking up high phone bills for victims. The stealthy malware strain, named SMSFactory by Avast, infiltrates phones and uses trickery to hide itself on the device so the victim is unaware of the damage being done.

Within just one year, Avast has protected more than **165,000 people** around the world from this threat. As malware attacks such as SMSFactory become increasingly common and difficult to spot, it's important to know what to look out for and the preventative measure to take.

What is SMSFactory?

The malware sneakily taps money from victims by sending premium SMS and making calls to premium-rate phone numbers undetected. One version is also capable of extracting victims' contact lists, spreading the malware further.

How does SMSFactory infiltrate a device?

This kind of malware is being spread through malvertising, a type of cyberattack that abuses adverts to send people to websites hosting malware. SMSFactory also appears to be distributed through push notifications and alerts displayed on sites offering game hacks, adult content, or free video streaming sites. The malware is disguised as an app which people can download. Once installed it hides itself, making it nearly impossible for victims to detect the cause of the additional charges on their phone bills.

What masking techniques does SMSFactory use?

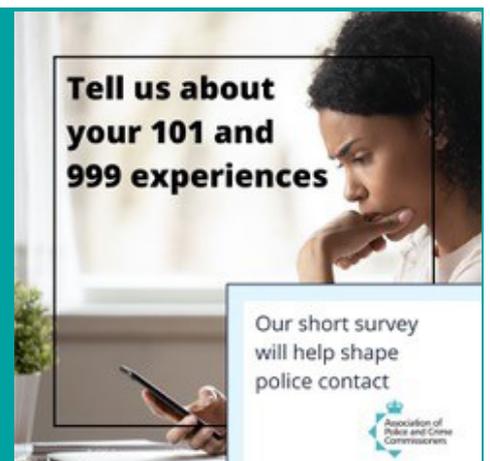
SMSFactory uses several tricks to stay on the victim's device and remain undetected. It has a blank icon and it is able to hide its presence by removing its app icon from the

home screen. The malware relies on the user forgetting about the app on their phone so they are unaware of the financial damage until they receive their phone bill.

Tips on how to avoid mobile malware like SMSFactory

- 1. Stick to official app stores**
SMSFactory highlights the importance of using verified app stores to install applications. Third party stores or unknown sources may contain malware and aren't blocked by an authority, such as Google.
- 2. Install an antivirus on your mobile device**
This is especially important if you choose to install apps from unofficial sources. You can also be protected from malicious websites this way. Antivirus software acts as a safety net, protecting even the most careful users.
- 3. Remain vigilant**
It's important to remain cautious when downloading new apps, especially apps advertised in short and catchy videos, or through push notifications in the browser.
- 4. Disable or limit premium SMS with your carrier**
While there are legitimate uses for premium SMS, recent SMS malware campaigns highlight the importance of having control over additional charges on your phone contract. Disabling premium SMS features – or at least setting a limit – significantly limits the potential impact of campaigns like this. This step is especially important on children's phones.

Can you spare a few minutes to complete the Association for Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)'s **NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTACT SURVEY** designed to understand more about the public's experience when contacting their local police forces?
Click [here](#) to access it. Closes on 24th July.



What an incredible NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK!



We are delighted to see so many Neighbourhood Watch groups celebrating both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and our 40th Anniversary during Neighbourhood Watch Week, as part of the Month of Community.

There were so many celebrations it's impossible to share them all! We will however be sharing some highlights in our next edition. This collage will give you a sense of what went on around England and Wales last week. Do send in more of your stories and photos to enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk.

What's still to come in June, the MONTH OF COMMUNITY?

We are half way through the MONTH OF COMMUNITY but there are still some amazing events supporting some much needed causes to take part in.

- 13-17th - Loneliness Awareness Week
- 20-24th - Small Charity Week
- 20-26th - Refugee Week
- 24-26th - The Great Get Together

Find out more [here](#).



Pride in reporting hate crime



As it's June, happy Pride Month! This year is a significant year for the Pride movement and the LGBTQ+ community as we commemorate 50 Years since the first Pride took place in the United Kingdom.

There have been great strides made during these 50 years for LGBTQ+ equality. But we can't be complacent. That is why, hate crime is included in Neighbourhood Watch's new Community Safety Charter launching next month.

To put this into perspective, consider the issues that the LGBTQ+ community faces:

- **One in five** LGBTQ+ people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months
- **Two in five** trans people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months
- **Four in five** anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes and incidents go unreported, with younger LGBTQ+ people particularly reluctant to go to the police

These shocking statistics are based on a survey conducted by 'You Gov' of 5000 LGBTQ+ people.

What is hate crime?

Anti-LGBTQ+ hate crime is abuse or violence committed against someone because of their orientation or gender identity. This can include:

- physical attacks
- sexually threatening or violent behaviour
- stealing or damaging your belongings
- blackmail, including demanding money not to 'out' you
- sending abusive or offensive messages
- verbal abuse, such as calling someone anti-LGBTQ+ names
- acting in a threatening or intimidating way
- encouraging others to target LGBTQ+ people

Know your rights

You are entitled to:

- be treated fairly and with respect by any service you talk to
- have the police record anti-LGBTQ+ abuse as a hate crime or incident
- have the police consider your opinion in deciding how to respond
- have information about your identity treated confidentially
- be called by the name and pronouns you ask them to use
- be kept informed about the progress of your case
- be offered other forms of support if you need it

Should I report?

Anti-LGBTQ+ abuse and violence are huge problems and reporting can make a difference.

Speaking up can be difficult, but reporting makes a difference.

You can contact the police directly by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency, or report hate crime online at true-vision.org.uk, or you can report incidents of hate crime anonymously at:

- National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline, 0800 999 5428
- LGBT+ Hate Crime Helpline, 0207 704 2040
- National Conversion Therapy Helpline, 0800 130 3335
- Crimestoppers, 0800 555 111 or report the crime online <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Simeon Earnshaw, Young Peoples Engagement and Development Manager at Neighbourhood Watch Network said 'As part of my research, I am going to work with LGBTQ+ young people on these issues. If you are interested to know more, contact me on simeon.earnshaw@ourwatch.org.uk'.

Success for first Tame Bridge Neighbourhood Watch community

More than 193 community spirited people have signed up to join Tame Bridge Neighbourhood Watch and help make their area a safer place.



The group hosted a hugely successful first public event in Tame Bridge (Walsall/Sandwell border) to increase awareness of the work being carried out and encourage people to join.

The gathering, on Saturday 14th May, proved to be as glorious as the weather with around 200 people of all ages and backgrounds dropping by to speak to local Coordinators, police and council representatives. Residents also took away crime prevention and safety materials, as well as enjoying tasty refreshments including samosas, cookies, sweets and soft drinks.

Tame Bridge Neighbourhood Watch was set up in October 2021 following concerns over a rise in incidents including burglaries, car crime and antisocial behaviour. Sandwell's first ever Street Watch initiative soon followed, where residents act as the eyes and ears of the community and report to the police.

In just four hours, 66 new residents signed up to the scheme, taking the total to 193,

with many also interested in volunteering their time for Street Watch.

The estate has been split into six zones, to make it more manageable, and WhatsApp groups have been set up to enable residents to be kept informed of any suspicious activity taking place.

Tame Bridge Street Watch Coordinators also walk the streets daily to provide a visible presence and reassurance for the community.

Sharie Kaur, Lead Coordinator for both Tame Bridge Neighbourhood Watch and Street Watch, said: *"We are absolutely delighted with how our first public event went and to have so many people sign up to join our Neighbourhood Watch is fantastic.*

"It was wonderful to speak to residents and to see them engaging with one another, especially those meeting for the first time. The response has been overwhelming and it has been a huge boost for the estate at a time where frustrations are high and morale is low. It showed there is a truly great community spirit here and people really do care about what's going on and want to see change.

"I would like to thank our kind donors, West Midlands Police, Sandwell Council, Rushall Shelfield Pelsall Brownhills Neighbourhood Watch, local residents, and our amazing volunteers for their input in making today a success and making Tame Bridge an even better place to live."

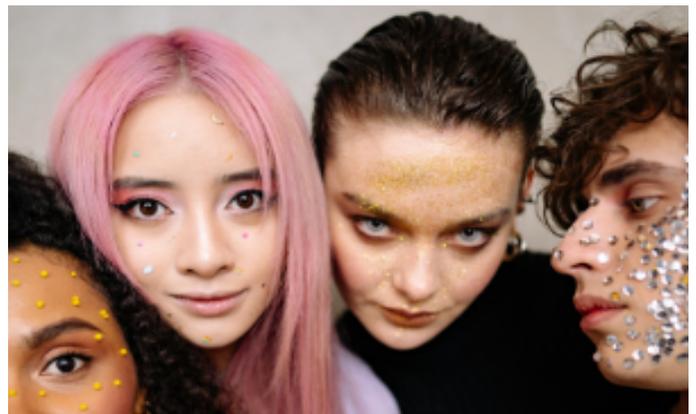
People can find out more about Tame Bridge Neighbourhood Watch and Street Watch by emailing TamebridgeWS5@outlook.com or by following them on Facebook and Twitter.

BeUtiful - a campaign by young people for young people

'Hi! My name is Mair. Some people may remember my campaign from last year with Neighbourhood Watch about the consequences of drug misuse among young people.

This year I am doing another campaign with Neighbourhood Watch called 'beUtiful'.

This campaign aims to encourage and support young people to embrace their insecurities and the things about them that make them different. continued on page 8



BeUtiful - a campaign by young people for young people

continued from page 7

It is no secret that the past two years have caused a lot of ill mental health amongst young people, so it is important to create something that spreads positivity.

The influence of social media can be a very negative one for young people as it leads to many people comparing themselves to others and causing them many insecurities.

This is a project that I care about a lot, and I think that it will have a very positive impact on young people across England and Wales.

But I need your help to get more young people working with me on creating this campaign. Are you a parent, carer or organisation that works with people aged 16-24? Share this opportunity with them and ask them to email me at youngpeople@ourwatch.org.uk.

ERA Protects with smart security ecosystem

Take home security to the next level with ERA Protect; a buildable smart security ecosystem from one of the oldest names in British lock-making.

As well as protecting all areas of your home and garden, this intuitive and affordable system that can be fully controlled via your phone also offers the highest level of data protection too, thanks to bank-level information security.

The eight piece ERA Protect alarm system is a great way to introduce smart security into your home. The multiple sensors and remote controls make this alarm system perfect for bigger properties or even small commercial and industrial buildings. The wireless system is easily expandable with accessories such as an outdoor camera making it easy to keep an eye on the property at any time and from anywhere.

For homeowners looking for added piece of mind the inclusion of an intruder alarm is one of the most effective ways to deter potential burglars by drawing attention to any trespassers. By providing both visual and audible protection this home alarm system is the best defender of your smart home.

The wireless burglar alarm is easy to install and ready to use in a few minutes. All components are wireless and will fit your smart home perfectly. The alarm kit is fully portable, so you can take it with you when you're moving house.

If you are looking for additional peace of mind that your system will always remain active, with the purchase of either the Protect Plus or Protect Plus Premium plans ERA Protect utilises dual path cloud and roaming sim technology to connect to the strongest 4G network and keep the system online even when Wi-Fi is down.

The smart security system is the latest innovation from ERA, which has been manufacturing locks, hardware and security systems in the UK since 1838.

[Click here to browse ERA products](#)



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What is the ProtectUK Platform?

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) in collaboration with the Home Office and Pool Reinsurance recently announced the launch of the ProtectUK platform.

ProtectUK is the new counter terrorism and security platform offering advice, guidance, forums, webinars and the award winning ACT Awareness e-learning.

ProtectUK helps individuals and communities combat terrorism by helping them to increase their protective security knowledge. As a Neighbourhood Watch supporter, NaCTSO hope that you will join their community of individuals and organisations, helping to make communities across the country safer.

If you don't know where to begin to support work on counter terrorism, sign up and complete the e-learning, read their latest news articles, and engage in the conversation on their forums.

Through the platform you will learn to become more vigilant, support your neighbourhood and spot signs that can save lives.

With preparation comes protection. Gain the knowledge to prepare and protect the UK with ProtectUK.

ProtectUK is available at protectuk.police.uk or via the ProtectUK app (on the Apple and Android App stores).

Have you heard about ActionFunder?

Sick of endless funding applications? ActionFunder is the funding platform connecting you with like minded businesses to secure funding, quick and easy.

ActionFunder is completely free to use for nonprofits of all sizes and shapes! Sign up and get notified as soon as funds launch in your area. By being automatically matched with all relevant funds, your application gets seen by dozens of funders increasing your chances of winning funding with no extra effort! Sign up today to get your projects funded.

Find out more [actionfunder.org/](https://www.actionfunder.org/).



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH KNOWLEDGE HUB

Our volunteer support platform

The Knowledge Hub provides Coordinators, Associations and other Neighbourhood Watch volunteers with:

- specific volunteer role support
- the opportunity to connect with other volunteers on forums
- a range of resources, including crime prevention campaign materials
- access to training to support your role
- early access to events such as webinars
- unique volunteer offers

[Click here to join the Hub](#)

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