

The Community BUZZ

December 2025



Members' Survey Coming January 2026

We are excited to announce that our forthcoming NWS Members' Survey is expected to launch in January 2026. Your insights will guide the development of new tools, resources, and support systems, ensuring that NWS continues evolving in response to the needs of Scotland's communities.

Look out for the survey invitation in your email inbox early in the new year. Your voice matters, and your feedback will directly shape the future of our service.

"Winter and festive time can often be a bit challenging for many, so let's take a moment to celebrate the good things we've had in 2025 and think about our own Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS) families. It's been a momentous year, with Watches, partnerships, engagement, website and membership services all growing and improving."

"This is down to the efforts of all of you locally, and the small but genuinely inspiring staff team, who regularly go the extra mile and beyond. On behalf of everyone, our thanks and warmest wishes to members, coordinators, partners, and supporters across Scotland."

"Let's celebrate our achievements, and be quietly proud of what they mean to those who need and value our help."

"At NWS our priority remains helping communities look out for one another so everyone can enjoy a safe, secure, and peaceful winter period. So, from me and the team, thank you for all you do, it makes a real difference and continues to shape safer, more resilient neighbourhoods."

Stewart Prodger, NWS Chair

Strengthening Connections: Joint Summit with Neighbourhood Watch England & Wales



Senior leaders from Neighbourhood Watch Network England and Wales and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland recently met in Edinburgh to explore enhanced collaboration between our organisations.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland - established in 2006, now supports over **760** registered schemes representing more than **58,000** households. Although NWS operates independently, both organisations share a unified mission and vision with our focus on making Scotland a safe, resilient and welcoming place.

"NWS is committed to building stronger and safer neighbourhoods. We can do that best by building better relationships and working more collaboratively. Working together we can achieve so much more. Neighbourliness is at the top of our agenda and will feature heavily in our newly designed strategy commencing in 2026" **Lesley Clark, Director of NWS**

John Hayward-Cripps, Chief Executive of Neighbourhood Watch Network England and Wales, added: "We are finalising our new strategy and as we look to the future, we are committed to a Britain where neighbours look out for each other. Collaboration drives innovation, and the strength of Neighbourhood Watch as a movement is the impact we have at a local level, regardless of where we live. We share the same aim

as our Scottish colleagues: to make our communities safer and better places to live. This dialogue is about how we might achieve that more effectively."

This summit marks a significant step toward enhanced cooperation, shared learning, and mutual support—strengthening the wider UK Neighbourhood Watch movement to the benefit of all our members. The future is bright!



NEIGHBOURLINES



Inside: NWS Communi-Tree • Activity Update • Spotlight on the Cyber and Fraud Hub and much more!

Neighbourhood Communi-tree

Back by popular demand - we are delighted to share our
NWS Festive Communi-tree, now live on our website.



The tree contains baubles and presents that give seasonal advice, resources, and practical tips to help keep you, your neighbours, and your loved ones safe and well during the festive season and includes:

- Personal Safety & Pet Safety
- Home Security
- Online shopping
- Illegal Money Lending
- Consumer Rights
- Frauds and Scams
- Fire Safety
- Adverse Weather Preparedness
- Winter Wellbeing

Visit our website to enjoy the full interactive experience
and share it within your local networks



Celebrating Community Spirit

The NWS Engagement team has been out and about supporting local initiatives and celebrating the positive work happening in neighbourhoods every day. Here we shine a festive light on some of these events and the people that have connected with. It is just a snapshot of the energy, engagement, and partnership working that make neighbourhood watch activity so valuable.

Scottish Grocers Federation, Glasgow

Our retailers across the country do so much more than sell products. They provide community hubs where people meet, share stories and connect, and for many, they are often the only friendly voice they hear in a day. NWS recognises the value and contribution they make.



Opportunities in Retirement (OiR), Ayr

This was a vibrant event involving lots of different community organisations with Scottish Country dancing, board games and Tai Chi making it a very welcoming and engaging day filled with fun.



Community event supported by Home Energy Scotland & Anti-Poverty Task Force, Civic Hall Perth



Fraud & Scam Prevention events at TESCO Extra, Bellshill and, Wishaw Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Motherwell RBS

These events saw the debut of PC Lucy bear and her handler PC McCrone from the Police Scotland Retail Taskforce, along with colleagues from Trading Standards.



'No Cold Calling' event, Gilmerton, Edinburgh

NWS team met up with Trading Standards (Edinburgh) and Police Scotland colleagues in Gilmerton to spread the word about **No Cold Calling Zones** which is a community where residents have agreed they don't want uninvited traders knocking at their doors.

Find out more:

[No Cold Calling Zones](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch Scotland](#)



Look out for events happening near you!

See upcoming events →



Spotlight on the **Cyber and Fraud Hub**

As reports of online Fraud and Scams continue to rise across Scotland and impact our everyday lives, there are simple steps that we can take to keep ourselves, friends and families safe.

- Be suspicious of unsolicited contact through phone calls, text, email, WhatsApp or social media delivering offers that appear too good to be true. Many of these communications come with a deadline to pressure us into making a decision. If you receive a phone call or message of this nature, ignore it or hang up.

Remember - ask a friend or relative for a second opinion or call the Cyber and Fraud Hub helpline to assist on 0808 281 3580.

- Be wary of offers on social media offering investment or other financial advice. For financial advice, you should always contact an organisation that is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
- 'Ask Silver' is an AI-powered scam checking tool that is facilitated in WhatsApp and helps users check out potential SCAMS. If you receive a suspicious message, email or letter, send a photo to 'Ask Silver' and you will receive an immediate response advising you if the message is genuine or not! Check it out at: **Ask Silver- Free Scam Checker**.

As cyber-enabled crime continues to evolve, the Cyber and Fraud Hub remains a central resource for its members.

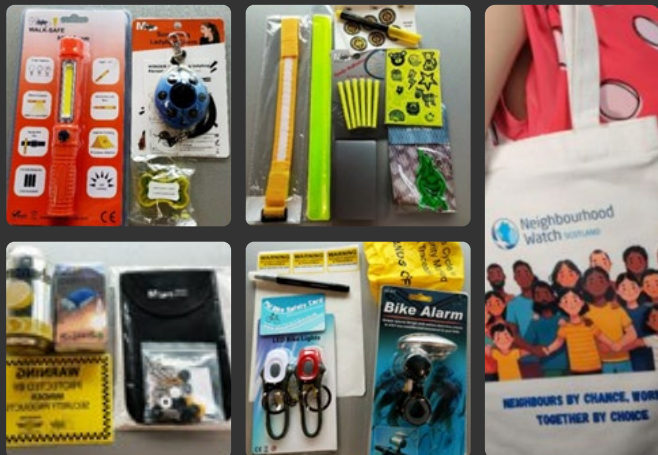
Updated regularly with alerts, practical guidance, learning modules, and support contacts, the Hub helps individuals and communities build resilience against online harm.

From phishing and delivery scams to fake investment schemes and festive fraud spikes, the Hub empowers members with the knowledge needed to stay safe in an increasingly digital world. Check it out at: **Cyber and Fraud Hub** - Scotland's only charity that works with the banking industry, Policing and technology partners.)

Please share Hub updates widely, especially at this time of year when fraud attempts often rise.



Explore the NWS Online Shop – Perfect Festive Gifts and Stocking Fillers



This winter, why not show your support for NWS by visiting the NWS online shop? Our store features a range of practical, community-minded items—from home-safety packs and window stickers to high-visibility accessories including new tote bags, signal blockers and a selection of affordable bundles.

These would make ideal stocking fillers for sharing with neighbours, friends and family. Every purchase directly supports our work across Scotland, helping us continue to provide guidance, resources, to our members. Explore the shop today and find unique (low cost) gifts that will make a real difference.

[Visit the NWS shop](#)



BT Connected-Together Campaign

NWS are delighted to be working with BT again in 2026 to help support the digital migration from analogue landlines in Scotland. The focus will be on trying to support those who have yet to switch and may be fearful of what this may mean for them. The NWS team will be out, spreading the word and trying to reach those who may have yet to engage in the process as we don't want anyone to be left behind.

The team may be coming to a place near you. Check out our events calendar in the new year for more information.

[Events Calendar](#)



Warm Wishes from All of Us

As 2025 draws to a close, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, partners, coordinators, and communities who work tirelessly to keep Scotland safe. We wish you a peaceful, joyful, and secure festive season—and look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.

Stay Connected with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland!

Share your stories – Remember: we love to hear from you and share your ideas and successes with our members to help inspire others to try new ways of bringing people together.

Let's continue to protect and support each other. Have questions? Need resources? Reach out anytime at info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk. Share this newsletter and spread awareness—safety is a team effort!

Getting in touch

✉ info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

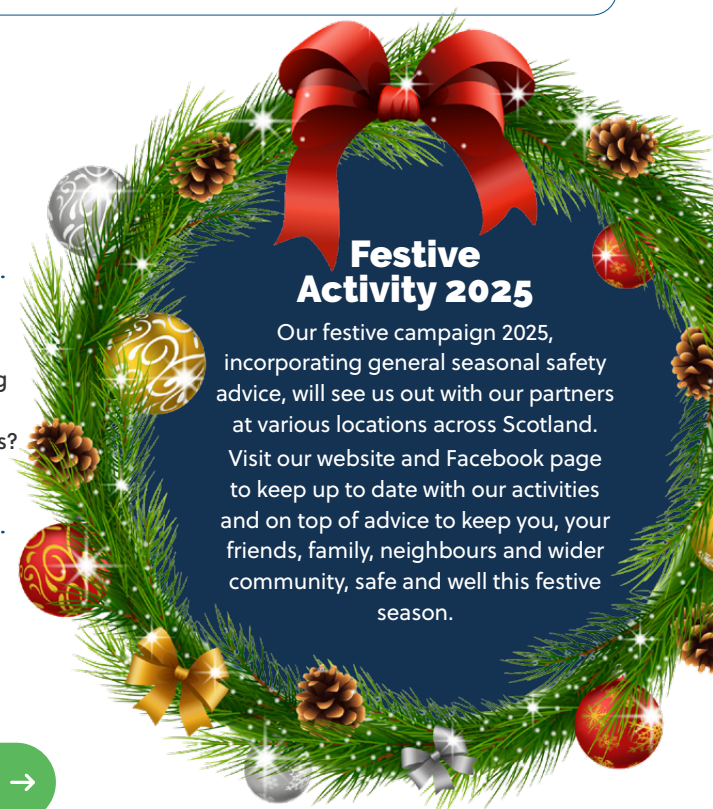
☎ 01786 463 732

📍 21 Claylands Road, Newbridge, Edinburgh, EH28 8LF

[NWS Website](#)



[Sign-up for alerts](#)



Festive Activity 2025

Our festive campaign 2025, incorporating general seasonal safety advice, will see us out with our partners at various locations across Scotland. Visit our website and Facebook page to keep up to date with our activities and on top of advice to keep you, your friends, family, neighbours and wider community, safe and well this festive season.

Wishing you a mindful festive season of calm and community wellbeing – Stay Informed, Be connected and Keep safe