

The Community BUZZ

September 2025



As summer ends, we're delighted to share highlights from a busy and positive season for Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS).

From community events and campaigns to inspiring local stories, it's been great to see people working together for safer, stronger neighbourhoods. We've also included practical tips to help you stay safe this autumn.

Our Survey Your Watch / Your Way

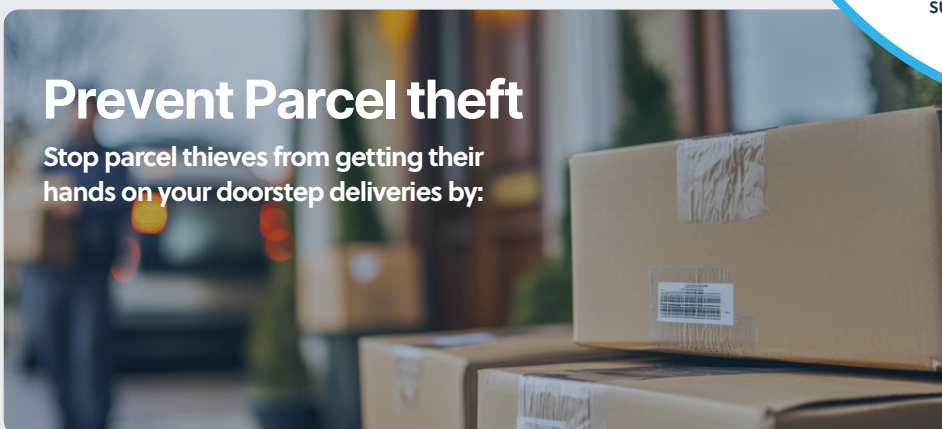
NWS is currently developing new ways to improve our support to members. We want you to be part of that.

A survey has been sent to all our 750 volunteer coordinators, and we hope that they will take the time to complete this prior to its close on 5th September 2025. A second survey that will be relevant to all members of NWS will be coming out shortly.

Please keep your eye out for this through Alert and help NWS to better support you and your community.

Prevent Parcel theft

Stop parcel thieves from getting their hands on your doorstep deliveries by:



Mobile tracking

Stay informed and use the tracking notifications now offered by most carriers. Know when its due and delivered. Retrieve it promptly.



Visible deterrent

Install a video doorbell or security camera. They can record as well as enable you to see and speak to anyone at your door (even if you are not at home).



Safe place

Nominate a safe place when you place your order and have the carrier leave it in a discreet spot.



Choose secure delivery options

Require a signature on delivery or provide an alternative delivery location e.g. a neighbour or use a secure locker service.



Illuminate

Install motion-activated lighting which can deter anyone lurking near your property.



Parcel Boxes

Install a lockable parcel box.



Community Vigilance

Inform neighbours about your delivery and ask them to assist / offer to do the same for them. A united community is a powerful deterrent and a great way to extend neighbourliness.

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Inside: Getting out and about • Activity Update • Spotlight on Volunteers and much more!



LATE SUMMER FUN



Wherever you go-be mindful of your surroundings. Here are some tips on how to continue to enjoy the great outdoors safely and respectfully.

WALKING

- Waymarked paths are there for your use - follow them where available. Some trails can be near ditches, cliff edges, busy roads etc.
- Close gates behind you as you go.
- Always keep dogs under close control and on a lead if near farm animals.

ANIMALS

- Do not disturb the wildlife, especially rare species. Observe from a distance.
- Don't walk through fields with livestock in them. Respect the animals and don't try to pet them.

STAYING SAFE/FIRES

Don't light bonfires. Take great care when lighting and using barbeques as these can easily get out of control. Avoid using disposable barbeques, but if you have too, ensure it's not in contact with grass or flammable surfaces and dispose of all your litter carefully afterwards

WILD FOODS

Scotland's landscapes have many different types of natural plants and food growing, some of which are safe to pick and take home to eat, but only if you know what you are looking for. There are some varieties of berries and mushrooms that are poisonous – beware.

REMEMBER

- Always take your rubbish home with you.
- Pick up after your dog.
- Keep a safe distance from any land management operations.
- Never intentionally or recklessly disturb or destroy a plant, bird, animal, or geological feature.
- Don't damage or disturb cultural heritage sites.

Enjoy your day and help others to do the same!



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More information →

A cautionary note - Be mindful of Ticks

Ticks are tiny spider-like insects that thrive in bushes and heather. They can attach themselves to your skin and transmit Lyme Disease which is a bacterial infection.

So it is important if you have been out walking in potential areas to check your ankles, legs or anywhere that was exposed or in contact with shrubbery when you get home.

[More information on how to check for Ticks.](#)

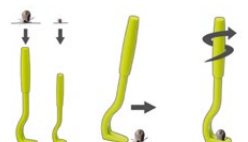


What to do if you find one?

- Don't panic!
- Remove the tick as soon as possible
- After removing the tick, clean the bite area with hot soapy water or an antiseptic wipe

Finally, if you do find ticks – you can record details with the [University of Glasgow](#) to help their studies and research.

The safest way to remove a tick is to use a tick removal tool, which can be found in many outdoor shops, chemists and vets



Activity Update

The NWS team have been busy over the summer with community engagement events where they met lots of wonderful people – all while enjoying the great weather. Thank you to those who took the time stop and say hello.

Working Together for Safer Waters

On 25th July, NWS joined Water Safety Scotland as they hosted an open day in support of World Drowning Prevention (WDP) Day, an international day that raises awareness of the public health issue of drowning and highlight means of prevention.

Check out their website for [water safety advice](#). A huge thank you to everyone that came along to tender their support.



Community group sessions

The team joined the West Lothian 50 Plus Network in Bathgate and the Sauchie Community Group for awareness sessions. These groups are great examples of local vibrant community groups and really highlight the benefits of local connections, friendship and of supporting one another.



On 6th August the team participated in a Community Safety event at the Gyle Shopping Centre, Edinburgh along with partners from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, CrimeStoppers and Advice Direct Scotland. We had the opportunity to speak with members of the public about how to start up a new Watch and our partners discussed a variety of topics regarding crime prevention, fire safety, fraud and scams and consumer advice. Three of our volunteer coordinators stopped by to say hello!



Community Engagement events

We love our pets at NWS and the team were fortunate to be invited to a few of the wonderful agricultural shows taking place including the Borders Union Show in Kelso, Perth Agricultural Show, British Horse Society Fun Horse Show and the Fun Dog Show (both at Dumfries House), Scone Palace Horse Trials, and the Equine Road Safety evening at West Kype Farm.



Keep an eye on the Events page on the NWS website for more events like this taking place over the summer months and be sure to **follow us on Facebook** and check the events calendar on the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland website.

See upcoming events →



Spotlight on our Volunteers!

On 12th August, Lesley Clark (NWS Director) met with two outstanding volunteers namely Barry Cathie (left) and Frank Conway (right) to recognise their longstanding contributions to their respective communities.

Barry started the Springhall and Cathkin Neighbourhood Watch in March 2022. Through his efforts as a volunteer Neighbourhood Watch coordinator he has organised regular community safety events, bringing residents, NWS, police and other organisations together. Barry has helped create a more connected community and we are extremely grateful to him for the continued work he is doing in his community.

Frank has been an active member since 1998 and at present his watch has over 500 members. Franks advice to others "Don't sit around moping, you can't sit around retired with nothing to do. I believed in the good in people, when I most needed support, people showed up".

Congratulations and well done to Barry and Frank – we extend you a huge thank you.

WE ARE SO PROUD TO HAVE OVER 750 VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND WHO PUT THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS INTO HELPING TO MAKE THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFER PLACES TO LIVE. NWS SALUTES THE EFFORT OF PEOPLE LIKE BARRY AND FRANK. WE ARE HUMBLY GRATEFUL TO ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO STEP UP TO CHAMPION SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES – YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION.

Lesley Clark, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Director

Landline phones are switching to digital, which could stop telecare alarms working.

Landlines are changing and the UK's telephone network is going digital. By January 2027, the old analogue network will be switched off and replaced by new digital landlines which work using broadband. These changes will affect everyone who has a landline they would like to keep using.

It is important that anyone that uses a telecare device such as personal alarms, pendant alarms, lifeline devices, home care monitoring systems – takes action to ensure that their equipment is compatible with the new digital technology. While many modern telecare systems are designed to work with both traditional and digital landlines, older models may require upgrades or replacements.

If you, or someone you know, uses a telecare alarm, you must call the landline provider now for support. They will help make sure your alarm keeps working through the switchover, and will advise whether you need an upgraded device, new adapter, device battery backup, or a mobile phone backup.

Users should contact their landline provider for support as soon as possible.

More information



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Connected Together

How to support friends and family with the digital landline switchover

For most BT customers, the switch is straightforward. But for some customers, especially more vulnerable members of society this can seem daunting. The BT Connected-Together campaign encourages friends, family, colleagues, neighbours to help support vulnerable members of the community through the switch and help them to understand why it is happening, and how to prepare.

A guide to Digital Voice

Digital Voice is BT's new home phone service, powered by your broadband connection

For most customers, the switch to Digital Voice will be as simple as connecting your home phone handset to a router rather than the phone socket on the wall. BT is raising awareness about the switch to its digital home phone service on a region-by-region basis, to help customers understand the simple steps required to make the switch.

✓ Over 99% of phone handsets are compatible with our digital home phone service. And if yours isn't compatible, we have a range of alternatives that you can use instead.

✓ Digital Voice guarantees the integrity of your calls and ensures call quality and reliability is always maintained.

FREE For most BT customers, it is a simple and completely free transition to Digital Voice with no home installation work required. And you can keep your current phone number.

Customers will be contacted four weeks before making the switch, to help ensure they're ready to make the move.

What about customers with additional needs?

BT is taking extra time and will provide additional support to customers who identify as vulnerable or with additional needs to ensure they are ready to move to a digital landline. All local authorities and telecom providers have been asked to share which phone lines have been checked on their, and BT is encouraging any vulnerable customers who have a concern or who haven't heard about their circumstances to give us a call on 0800 1234 155.

Together with Government, Ofcom, telecom providers, charity partners and key industry groups, BT is working hard to ensure that everyone knows about the change, how they will be impacted and what they need to do as a result.

For customers without broadband, BT will be offering a dedicated landline service.

Download Guide ↓

For those with a landline only, BT will be offering a dedicated landline service, allowing customers to use their landline in the same way they do today.

Anyone who needs extra support to make the switch to Digital Voice, should be encouraged to register for this using the BT webform on the [website](#). An engineer will then be made available to assist them with transition. Customers will need to log in to their MyBT account and will then be able to tell BT about any additional needs.

BT / EE customers with a Telecare device should call **0800 077 8813**.

Plusnet customers should call **0800 079 0009**.

If you are not a BT customer, please contact your own landline provider for support in this process.



**PLEASE
LOOK OUT FOR
FAMILY, FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBOURS AND USE
THE GUIDE TO HELP THEM
BENEFIT FROM A SMOOTH
TRANSITION.**

More information



Online shop



Check out our online shop

We have a new range of 5 tote bags, designed by one of our young team members. Just the thing to keep your NWS leaflets to hand when you are out and about. Every penny raised will go back into funding NWS community activities.

[Visit the NWS shop](#)



Neighbourhood Watch 'Board of Trustees'

NEEDS YOU!



There are currently opportunities for new Trustees (and Formal members) to join this dynamic organisation that is committed to developing Safer Neighbourhoods and Stronger Communities throughout Scotland.

Trustees can come from within the Neighbourhood Watch network, or from outside the organisation, if they have skills which would be beneficial to the development of Neighbourhood Watch. If this is of interest to you, or anyone you know, please get in touch.

If you would like to speak to someone about any of these roles, or find out more on how you can get involved, please click the link below.

[Get involved](#)



Late Summer activity 2025

The NWS team continue to be out and about and encourage people to sign up for Alerts and consider joining / starting a watch. Please encourage others to join NWS.


We will also continue to support our partners BT and E-On Next with sharing key messages in advance of the switch off deadlines.


Stay Connected with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland!

Share your stories – We love hearing about the positive impact our volunteers make. If you have a story or event to share, please let us know. Your experiences inspire others and highlight the strength of our communities. Community safety and wellbeing is a team effort, and we are here to help support you and your neighbours with resources and advice.

Getting in touch

 info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

 01786 463 732

 21 Claylands Road, Newbridge, Edinburgh, EH28 8LF

[NWS Website](#)



[Sign-up for alerts](#)

*A warm thank you for all that you do.
Together, we can make a difference and achieve so much more.*