



# The Community

# BUZZ

June 2024



## The NWS team is → *on the move*

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Summer has finally arrived and with it comes a new home for NWS as we say goodbye and thank you to STEP Scotland, who have looked after us at Stirling.  
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This move sees the NWS team co-locate with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) at their premises in Newbridge. We are delighted and excited to be working alongside the SFRS and look forward to further enhancing our service to members and their communities on safety and wellbeing over the coming months.

From 12th June onwards our new address will be: 21 Claylands Road, Newbridge, Edinburgh. EH28 8LF. There should be minimal disruption and members can continue to contact us in the usual ways (see below) including by phone as there is no change to our existing telephone number.



**SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**  
Working together for a safer Scotland

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## Are you summer ready?

### Tips: Summer Safety

Summer is a time of fun and relaxation whether we spend it with friends and family at home or away at our destination of choice. But some simple proactive measures will help ensure that we can do this safely and with peace of mind.

**Home Security system** – do you have one? If you do make sure it is 'fit for purpose' and in good working order to keep your home safe when you are away. If not, there are a range of options for you to consider in accordance with your budget with simple additions to home security available at low cost such as a doorbell with CCTV facility. Indoor and outdoor CCTV may be a consideration for you.

**Windows and Doors** – check the integrity of all windows and doors to

ensure that they are fully functional and secure. Remember to lock all windows and doors when you are out and about – never leave your home insecure.

**Garden security** – keep your hedges trimmed to prevent them from screening any potential housebreakers from accessing your property. Always put garden tools and ladders away securely and lock your shed/outhouses. The use of shed alarms and CCTV to cover blind spots are great additions to garden security.

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Welcome to our news-in-brief. In this update page, we'll keep you informed about the latest developments and important updates from the NWS team.

## Stay Safe – Get on Board Anti-Fraud Roadshow

During March NWS supported officers from the Police Scotland Crime Reduction Unit as part of their 'Stay Safe – Get on Board Anti-Fraud Roadshow,' alongside partners from British Transport Police (BTP), Police Scotland Edinburgh Prevention, Intervention and Partnerships and the ScotRail Travel Safe Team. The group travelled on the east coast trainlines between Inverness and Tweedbank, holding roadshows at the stations located in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Dundee with a final stop at Galashiels Interchange.

This roadshow enabled us to connect with over 1000 passengers. BTP highlighted the text service 61016 and promoted the Railway Guardian App, which allows users to report crimes or concerns on the rail network, as well as providing access to news, guides, or supports.

North East Crime Reduction Officers provided advice on Fraud and NWS staff highlighted the benefits of getting involved in the Community, providing advice on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and the Neighbourhood Alert system.

Lesley Clark, (NWS Director) said: "We are proud to be involved in this joint initiative. Crime including fraud and other community safety issues can have a devastating impact on people and communities involved.

By working together, providing advice and support it is hoped people will feel more informed and better at identifying crimes and prevent them becoming a victim.



[Download the Railway Guardian App →](#)  
App for free

## On Tuesday 2nd April NWS staff were at Mortonhall Garden Centre, Edinburgh for the launch of the 'Shut-Out Scammers' campaign.

The team joined officers from Police Scotland Edinburgh Prevention, Intervention and Partnerships, the National Rural & Acquisitive Crime Unit, and Business Crime Prevention Unit, as well as colleagues from Trading Standards, Age Scotland, and ACE IT Scotland.



## 'Improving Lives' event, Clydebank

On 23rd April, NWS was privileged to attend an event organised by the Improving Lives team at Dalmuir Barclay Church in Clydebank. Over 50 different organisations attended and engaged with members of the public, including those living with disabilities and the carers who provide care and support to people in the community. The event was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the many ways in which organisations are working together to support those living in the Clydebank and greater Glasgow area.

Many of the attendees were interested to hear about what NWS do and several were keen to sign up to the Neighbourhood Alert system.



## Livingston Designer Outlet and The Centre Livingston

The NWS team partnered with colleagues from Police Scotland's West Lothian Community Team and the Business Crime Prevention Unit on Wednesday 24th April, where Michele and local community officers delivered a joint presentation to retail staff at the Vue Cinema in Livingston. Michele, Lyndsay, and Keith then held information stalls whilst police colleagues visited the various stores to promote Retail Watch.



## Fettes at 50, Edinburgh

On Saturday 18th May the NWS team participated in the 'Fettes at Fifty' event for police officers and their families to mark 50 years to the day of the opening of Fettes Police Headquarters in Edinburgh. This event was the final opportunity for officers (serving and retired) to visit the building in this way and see photographs and displays highlighting the 50 years of its policing history.



our free  
purse bells  
were as  
popular  
as ever



## Spotlight on 'Volunteers Week'

Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th June saw Neighbourhood Watch Week coincide with the 40th anniversary of National Volunteers' Week. To mark this week, we were out and about at various locations including B&Q in Dunfermline, Cumbernauld, Livingston and IKEA at Straiton where the team bumped into actor Matt Costello, who plays 'Stevie the bookie' from the TV show Still Game. Thanks to Matt for being such a great sport and making us smile with a rendition of his famous line 'feel the burn Boobie!'



*Thank you*

**VOLUNTEERS' WEEK**  
40th Anniversary



NWS would like to take the opportunity to thank all our volunteers and watch members across Scotland for the invaluable work that they do in support of their local communities. Without the personal investment by our coordinators – NWS could not survive. Supporting our volunteers is the mainstay of our daily business. So, from the NWS team – well done to each and every one of you out there and thank you for all that you do as part of NWS activity which all goes towards our mission for 'safer neighbourhoods, stronger communities.' You are an inspiration and making a real difference to the lives of people living within your areas.

## Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Carers Centre

NWS would like to extend a huge thank you to the wonderful staff from Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Carers Centre for inviting the team along to speak with their carers group. This was an interesting and worthwhile session that highlighted some of the many challenges faced by those caring for others in the community. NWS were able to share some of the benefits of being involved in a watch and how this can help to build safer, stronger communities and help support its more vulnerable members.



## Glen Oaks Big Conversation Event

On 5th June, the team attended at the Glen Oaks Big Conversation Event hosted by the Glen Oaks Housing Association along with officers from Police Scotland. They learned about the issues affecting local communities in the area and the activities undertaken by the housing association. This included

the goConnect project which provides social activities, clubs, and classes to support tenants and encourage their participation in community cohesion and the 'Good Neighbour Award' given in recognition of an individual's kindness which had made a positive impact on the life of another.



## Ayr - Ageing Well – 'One Year On' event

On Thursday 30th May NWS staff attended the event by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire that took place within Ayr Town Hall.

We had a fabulous day and it was a privilege to participate alongside the large number of organisations present, including Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, South Ayrshire Council, Trading Standards, South Ayrshire Libraries, Community Brokerage Network, South Ayrshire Carers, Hearing Link Services, British Red Cross, Ayrshire Independent Living Network to name a few.

During the event we heard from key speakers about the current measures and future plans to help people age well in South Ayrshire including the chair of the Ageing Well Champions Board, MSP for South Scotland region, Assistant Director Public Health.

Performances from members of Drum 4UR Life, and the Gaiety Partnership kept the crowds entertained. Once again, we would like to thank everyone who stopped by to speak with us, and it was great to see so many people interested in NWS and our Neighbourhood Alert system.

The team also attended at the Whitelee Wind Farm community day at Eaglesham Moor delivered by SP Renewables on 9th June. It was a fantastic event with an opportunity to learn more about renewable energy first hand. There were lots of activities including science exhibits from Glasgow's Science Centre and wildlife displays by the Wildlife Trust.



# Are you summer ready?



**Post and deliveries** - Take measures to prevent papers, parcels, and letters from being left visible at your door highlighting to callers that you are away from home.

Redirect, if necessary or ask a neighbour to help keep an eye out for you.



**Social media** – be careful what you post about your holiday plans and where you are when out and about, especially if you permit public access. Be mindful that you could be advertising the fact that you are away from home to potential thieves. Consider changing public privacy settings for the time that you are away and restrict access to those you trust.



**In/Out?** Make it look as though you are still at home by using light timers for both indoor and outdoor lights.

Tilted blinds are great to prevent people from seeing inside your home. Keep valuables out of sight and use a home safe for more precious items.

## Tips: Summer sun and hot weather



**Getting out and about in Scotland** – if you plan to benefit from the outdoors in hot weather remember to be prepared with sunscreen, hat, lightweight clothes and take along adequate food and water. The Scot Govt website give good practical advice on keeping safe including information on forest fires and the outdoor access code. It goes without saying – Plan your visit and know your route beforehand. Let others know where you are going and when you plan to be back. [More info](#)



**Barbeque safety** – remember best practice when grilling - be careful where you site your BBQ, keep children at a safe distance and allow to cool before disposing of coal and ash. [More info](#)



**Drowning Prevention week** will take place from 15-22nd June 2024 to coincide with the start of the summer season and leading to the start of the school holidays. It is important to remember that although water may look safe, it can be dangerous. [Water Safety Scotland](#) | [Scottish Water](#)

## Looking ahead: dates for the diary



Although small, the NWS team is always on the lookout for local events to support.

**Let us know of your plans** - it may be possible for us to come along and led you some additional support.

- **Drowning Prevention Week: 15-22nd June 2024**
- **Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Awareness Week: 1st - 7th July.** We hope to run a series of webinars during this week on the topic. Keep an eye on the website for further information.
- **Water Safety Open Day at Loch Lomond: 25th of July.** If you are in the Balloch area, come and meet the team and see what it is all about.

## Spotlight on – Comely Park Watch, Falkirk



We would like to take this opportunity to commend the good work of Anne-Marie and her team for their recent 'Let's be Quizzical' event held at Falkirk Bowling Club on Friday 24th May.

This has been a busy period for the watch as they participated in Dementia Awareness Week, Volunteer's Week and are looking ahead to mark Carer's Week. Anne-Marie was delighted with the event and commends her members for getting involved, donating prizes, and giving up their time to other local people in the community. Well done everyone!

Local activity such as this is inspiring and wonderful to see and will resonate with most of you out there. We would be delighted to hear from you and share your stories too.

## Spread the word

Attracting new members and growing the Alert network is something we here at NWS continually strive to achieve. You can help – by spreading the word. By attracting one new member from your family, friend's group, neighbourhood, or workplace will help us to expand our reach and increase capability to make a difference within Scotland's communities. So, our plea this summer is to ask you to try to enlist at least one new member / supporter from within your network. This small act on your part can help influence our future

Share your stories - Finally, keep in touch and share your events with us - Cake stalls, coffee mornings, 'walk and talk' strolls... We would 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.

## Stay in touch

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[NWS Website](#) →



[Sign-up for alerts](#) →