Celebrating neighbours

We’ve seen a surge in neighbourliness as people look out for the vulnerable and talk to those next door more than ever before ¹, a silver lining to the cloud COVID-19 has cast over our daily lives.

Since early March, Neighbourhood Watch has been encouraging people to ‘Be Kind, Connect, Support and Share’ during these challenging times as part of the Community Action Response led by Eden Project Communities in response to the pandemic. As part of the campaign, award-winning cartoonist, Tony Husband, has created bespoke cartoons for the four community actions to show just how important our communities are at this time.

Now, Neighbourhood Watch is calling on communities to stay connected and celebrate this neighbourly behaviour by having fun and using creativity and humour inspired, by Tony’s cartoons, to engage neighbours during their awareness week from 7—13th June.

Tony’s cartoons can be downloaded as posters for your window or postcards to pop through a neighbour’s door, and if you feel creative you can draw your very own version and enter it in a competition to be judged by Tony himself.

Tony Husband said ‘It’s fantastic that so many neighbours are looking out for each other. It’s important after taking initial steps to reach out to each other, we find ways to stay connected. The events in Neighbourhood Watch Week provide an opportunity for us to express ourselves and say thank you to those who live closest to us.’

There are lots of ways to get involved during Neighbourhood Watch Week, from sharing neighbourly messages to having an online party with your neighbours. The week starts with The Big Lunch on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of June, where neighbours and communities are encouraged to connect online, on the phone or safely on the doorstep to share friendship, food and fun.

John Hayward-Cripps said ‘As we ease out of lockdown, we think the time is right to say thank you to our neighbours and celebrate the new connections made by using creativity to depict life in lockdown. We encourage you to continue to put safety first and join in with these activities from the comfort of your own home.’

Resources including postcards, posters, competition details and bunting-making can be found at www.ourwatch.org.uk/letsstayconnected.

Editors notes:

1. According to a new study released by Co-op Insurance – Life in lockdown when neighbours become good friends
2. Neighbourhood Watch is a grassroots movement with over two million supporters across England and Wales. Neighbourhood Watch is run by volunteers across England and Wales who are supported, by Neighbourhood Watch Network, the umbrella charity for the movement.
3. Neighbourhood Watch works in partnership with the Police, the Home Office, corporate partners and other voluntary organisations to prevent crime, strengthen local community links and keep people safe.
4. Membership of Neighbourhood Watch schemes is open to all and is free, although donations may be requested by local groups.