

Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation

New Year update from the Chairman, John Wright

Dear friends,

As you are aware, there have been some significant changes in the Sussex NHW Federation. I felt that my first job as Chairman should be to bring stability and fresh ideas to the table, and we now have in place a new team to help facilitate this. Part of this re-structure was to re-organise the key personnel and create strategic roles within the Federation to cover the whole of Sussex, to help us meet the needs of our members. I have introduced some new posts which are outlined below, plus a brief introduction of who is who.

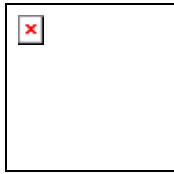
I believe that by going back to basics and starting afresh, this will set the Federation on a new course of leadership, inspiration, communications, advice, assistance, etc, but **not** to run watches. Running watches is where the co-ordinators fit in.

My Deputy Chairman and I have had meetings with ACC Robin Merrett of Sussex Police and other senior officers, to further cement our relationships with the Police, confirm their continued full support of Neighbourhood Watch, and to discuss some new ideas.

New Trustees

Following the new Executive Officer appointments at the AGM, I am pleased to confirm that the Federation has also appointed new Trustees, who are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. Taking up the reins are:

- **John Wright, Chairman**, who has also been the Chairman of Crawley Neighbourhood Watch Association for the past 10 years. John is a member of the Sussex Police Independent Advisory Group. He has held senior management positions within Excel Logistics, and was an Associate Director with a well-known bank. He now is the proprietor of a tyre company. John is a firm believer in community spirit, and works hard doing the right things for the right reasons.
- **Derek Pratt, Deputy Chairman**, is also the Vice Chairman of Crawley Neighbourhood Watch Association, and Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch North Sussex Search Team. Although brought up in West Sussex, Derek spent about 25 years in Management positions in the insurance industry in Asia and the Middle East, and is now a Director of a property investment company. He is also a Chartered Secretary and a Chartered Insurance Practitioner.
- **John Holman, Treasurer and Vice Chairman for West Sussex**, is also the Secretary of Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch Association. He has been involved with Neighbourhood Watch for the last 13 years. John has a banking and finance background, is a District Councillor and an active member of his local Rotary club.
- **Michael Hewens, Vice Chairman for East Sussex**, is the Co-ordinator for Hurtis Hill Neighbourhood Watch in Crowborough. His background is in vocational further education and hospitality management, in the UK and abroad.



- **Peter Brookshaw, Vice Chairman for Brighton & Hove**, is also the Chairman of Saltdean, Rottingdean and Ovingdean Neighbourhood Watch. He is a Director at East Brighton Golf Club, and following a career working for British Telecom for over 35 years he then worked for Sussex Police based at Brighton as a Crime Prevention Officer and a Violent Crime Reduction Officer, before finally retiring.
- **Ann Goodridge, Secretary**, has spent the last 20 years in the voluntary sector, mainly as an administrator and secretary, currently with Neighbourhood Watch and a Community Transport organisation.
- **Robin Hargraves, Sales Officer**, is also a Trustee and Committee member of Arun Neighbourhood Watch Association, a member of the West Downs Search Team since its inception over 10 years ago, a Committee member on the Rustington Community Partnership, and a Street Co-ordinator for Rustington Residents Association.

Where we are

The Federation acts as a forum, co-ordinates resources, provides help to its members and helps to share good practice, as well as seeking to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch. It also represents the views of Neighbourhood Watch members to the NHW South East Regional Forum, and where necessary to the national Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network www.ourwatch.org.uk.

As a reminder, the main purposes of Neighbourhood Watch are to promote good citizenship and greater public awareness through Neighbourhood Watch groups, increase public participation in the prevention and detection of crime, reduce the fear of crime, improve police/community liaison and increase community safety.

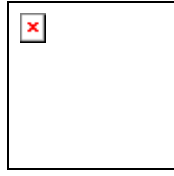
Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that no one has to feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live. It's about people looking out for each other, crossing barriers of age, race and class to create real communities that benefit everyone. It's about working together in harmony as a friendly team, not as a collection of individuals.

The way forwards

It is widely recognised that Neighbourhood Watch, the largest voluntary organisation in the UK, is a sleeping giant. All we have to do is to wake it up! We have many challenges to face, but I believe that with enthusiastic and dynamic leadership, plus your support and that of the police, from the highest echelons downwards, and mutual support amongst all our other partners, we can make substantial progress.

Some of the issues that need to be addressed, in no particular order, include:

- **More contact and interaction with the Police** at local level, in every part of Sussex. The secret to success is in the strength of our partnerships. Each Neighbourhood Policing Team is tasked with working with their local community, of which Neighbourhood Watch is a key element. Senior officers will make sure that this happens.
- **Better engagement with local neighbourhoods**, community and vulnerable people including the young, elderly and disabled. This includes more involvement at Ward panels and other regular meetings, etc



- The introduction of **more NHW schemes across the county**, the enhancement of existing schemes, and making sure that our communities know about and support them.
- The **creation of NHW Area Committees** in those places which do not already have them. These will provide the cohesion and linkage necessary to make sure that we are all pulling together in the same direction, learning from each other and sharing best practice.
- We will re-visit our **communications and information delivery systems**, with our members' needs and wishes very much in mind.
- **NHW street signs**. We need to speed up the time taken from initial order through to completion. I am delighted that our Sales Officer, Robin Hargraves, has taken this on board, and any issues should be raised with him: chairman@anwa.org.uk
- We plan to update the **Sussex NHW Members' Handbook**, and make this a really useful and informative tool. It will be available both online and in a limited print run.
- We will re-visit the **Federation Committee responsibilities** and the Constitution, and make sure that the Federation delivers what our members need.
- We will be asking all Co-ordinators and their deputies in Sussex what they think about NHW, what else they would like to see, what needs to be changed, and their views on some of our ideas. This will be done through a **simple online survey**.
- We are hoping to hold the first ever **Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Conference** in April 2012. This will be at a convenient location to suit all NHW members. Further information will be available in the near future.
- **2012 is a special year** because we will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2nd-5th June, the 30th anniversary of NHW during National Neighbourhood Watch week 16th-24th June, the Olympic Torch visiting Sussex in July, followed by the London Olympic Games 27th July-12th August and the Paralympic Games 29th August-9th September. NHW has the opportunity to be involved in all these activities, and more information will follow later.

Neighbourhood Watch is a powerful and potent volunteer force, many thousands strong, which can make a real difference in our communities. We need to motivate ourselves by setting challenging but realistic targets, and I am confident that we have or can find the resources necessary to achieve success. All we need is a little bit of help from you, our membership.

On behalf of the Federation I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member for what you have done for the benefit of NHW and your communities, and to wish you well for the future. I know that we can count on your support.

John

John Wright
Chairman

January 2012