

# Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch



Charity No 1062009

## September 2014 Newsletter

Welcome to our third Newsletter of 2014. We hope you find it helpful. Our AGM and third quarterly members meeting was held on Wednesday 3 September 2014, at Police Headquarters was a very positive time together. We thank David Biles from Crimestoppers, who was our guest speaker for the evening.

Hazel outlined the achievements since the last AGM which had been a busy and fruitful year.

The Trustees have met 14 times, with three "quarterly Members meetings, each with a guest speaker.

The Association was represented on a number of panels relating to community safety.

The Trustees have remained the same, with Roland Carpenter from Sharnbrook co-opted on earlier in the year.

1. **The Community Tactical Group (CTAG)**, focussing on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Producing and delivering Alert letters to targeted areas.
2. **Countywide Steering Committee** formed by the three Bedfordshire Neighbourhood Watch groups, sharing ideas to develop the individual Watches.
3. **Community Watch Committee**, comprising of the three Neighbourhood Watch Groups plus Speed and Street Watch from Central Beds. Also represented is Bedford Borough Council, Ringmaster and the Police. This group has purchased Data Link Pots, No Cold Calling Stickers, NHW Street Signs, Stay Safe booklets and Security Marking Skins.
4. **A Memorandum of Understanding** has been agreed and signed between the County Watch Groups and the Police. Hazel encouraged us to develop our working relationship with our local PCSO's. The PCSO's are also being encouraged to develop their links with us. Lynne Arch can help put you in touch with your local PCSO.
5. **Community Engagement:** Ringmaster has developed a dedicated page for us to use on their messaging system. We hope to launch OURWATCH and have our own mini website.
6. We will continue to send Newsletters following every quarterly meeting, plus any 'Alert' letters as needed.
7. **Lynne Arch** has been seconded to work from the PCC's Office as Countywide Support Officer. This role is to help, support and develop the individual Watches in the County. Because of the success of this role, her post is transferring to Bedfordshire Police. Lynne continues to be our first point of contact when you ring our number.
8. We have been active in our role in '**Operation Vision**' led by the Police and '**Days of Action**' a partnership led initiative. These are held in specific communities and we have recruited more new members through these events than any other way.
9. **Recruitment:** We have had an exceptional year for new schemes and recruitment, with membership rising by 20%. This extra workload of setting up schemes means we need more volunteers to help us and more so if we are to continue to see an expansion of our membership, with better communication and development between ourselves and with our Partners.
10. **Area Coordinators Refreshers Courses:** These were introduced to keep our members up to date with changes and to meet other coordinators and visit the Police Call Centre. We hope to continue these in the autumn.
11. **National Neighbourhood Watch Week:** from June 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. This week for us included a successful exhibition at the start, 'Cover it Live' event with Ringmaster, Marathon Coffee Morning and our annual Quiz Night, which raised over £500.
12. **Awards:** We were very pleased to announce Award winners, who this year were Gerald Gale of Wilstead for Outstanding Achievement and Alan Pibworth for Community Cohesion at Wixams. Alan also won the National Award, presented at Westminster in London at the end of the National Week.
13. **Other events** this year were the River Festival and Sponsored Walk and Hazel thanked those who had helped and sponsored Joanne and her. These events raised £400 and £350.

**Looking Forward: Planning towards an active scheme in all areas of the Borough – Recruit more Area Coordinators – Improve our communications – Increase membership – develop relationship with our partners.**

We were pleased to have David Biles with us.  
David is Chairman of Bedfordshire Crime**stoppers** and gave us a very interesting insight into his organisation.

**Crimestoppers** is a registered charity and is a partnership between the police, media and community.

Currently over 30 local boards working together at local level. It is a facility to pass information to the police without disclosing the caller's identity. Anonymity is at the core of Crime**stoppers**.

David told us that Crime**stoppers** is **NOT**:

- a substitute for 999 calls
- a substitute for non-emergency police numbers
- a crime recording alternative
- a preferred option to existing crime prevention methods
- part of the police
- a TV programme.



In a survey in 1999, 83% said they would not wish to contact the police directly with crime information. Reasons given were not wishing to get involved, frightened, compromising their family (giving information about a relative or friend), criminals themselves, putting their employment in danger.

David said that contacting **Crimestoppers** is free from both landline and mobiles. There is no 1471 facility. No caller display. Calls are not recorded. They do not appear on itemised bills. Callers are not asked for identity and computer ID and IP addresses are not recorded. All reports are scrutinised so that any caller identity is removed. Information is put on a database then forwarded to the Police etc.

As a result of information given – 17 people are arrested every day, every 10 days there is an arrest for murder, 44 positive actions are made by law enforcement every day.

**Further statistics:** Since Crime**stoppers** started in 1998, over 128,000 people have been arrested and charged, over £129m of stolen property recovered. £317m worth drugs seized. (During 2013/14 over £18m worth of drugs taken off the streets. Have had over 1.5m actionable calls.

**What can we do?** Advise the public, victims and offenders how Crime**stoppers** works. Inform them there is another way than 'face to face' contact. Distribute Crime**stoppers** cards and spread the word. Ring us. Become a volunteer. Think about how we can use Crime**stoppers** as a tool to solve crime.

**Ways to contact Crimestoppers:**

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org):  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org/bedfordshire](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/bedfordshire):  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org/most-wanted](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/most-wanted):  
Twitter.com/crimestoppersuk:  
[www.facebook.com/crimestoppers](https://www.facebook.com/crimestoppers)

For more information please contact  
[david@crimestoppers-uk.org](mailto:david@crimestoppers-uk.org).  
mobile 07443226313.

**Bedford & District NHW**

**Next Quarterly Members Meeting**

**Thursday 04 December 2014**

**For more information about NHW  
please contact**

**Lynne Arch, Administrator**

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**[lynne.arch@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lynne.arch@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)**



**Thank you to all who have helped and supported us this year.  
It has been appreciated.**