

Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch



Charity No 1062009

January 2016 Newsletter

NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH

Bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2016. We hope you find it helpful. Our Members Quarterly Meeting was held on Wednesday 27 January 2016, in the lecture theatre at Police Headquarters.

The agenda covered feedback from the National Annual Conference, an update on the OURWATCH/ALERT communication system and Police & Crime Commissioner awards event held last December.

We extend a big welcome to **Kim Hunt** who has offered to take on the role of Area Coordinator in Great Denham.

To help Kim and existing scheme members, a Community Engagement Day and a planning meeting was held on Friday 29th January. If you are an existing member of NW in Great Denham and would like to become more involved, (there are a number of streets without a Street Coordinator) please contact Kim through your Parish Council network.

We also extend our welcome to **Tony Glasson** who has offered to take on the role of Area Coordinator in Bromham.

We are looking to have a similar re-generation day in late February.

Thank you to Jon Miles, Area Coordinator for Elstow, for arranging a very successful bike marking and number plate securing day in his Area.

It also gave us an opportunity to highlight the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch and register new members onto his scheme.



This type of event is open to all area Coordinators. If you're interested in holding one, then please ring the Neighbourhood Watch Office number. (01234 842043)

National Neighbourhood Watch Conference. December 2015

National NW explained to us the value of funding through sponsorship and this conference had been paid for in this way.

At the opening of the conference several of the sponsors were given the opportunity to show their products and explain how the promotion of the products could benefit us all.

One thing National aim to do this year is to secure funding **from** companies so that local Associations like us could benefit from any funding achieved.

One of the opportunities open is **"PATLOCK"**

Deter and stop would be intruders, the Patlock provides extra security and instant peace of mind for homeowners. The Patlock is easy to fit and works by holding the door hand in place. Ensuring the door mechanism cannot be opened, even if the locks are snapped or removed. In addition, each Patlock comes with a pair of tamper resist spindles to improve security.

PROTECTING THE THINGS AND PEOPLE YOU LOVE

Buy the Neighbourhood Watch Patlock at our exclusive discounted rate of £42.50* (including VAT and delivery) at: www.ourwatch.org.uk

*£44.00 at www.patlock.co.uk

SECURE FRENCH DOORS AND CONSERVATORIES WITH PATLOCK

See how Patlock works at: www.patlock.co.uk

Patlock secures French doors and conservatories. Normally retails at £64.00. Through Neighbourhood Watch the cost would be £42.50, including VAT and delivery. For each one sold by us we will receive £5.00 directly into our bank account and National will receive £2.00, to help support them.

The product can be purchased on line at <http://www.patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch> or by completing an order form available from Neighbourhood Watch Office.

New Branding for Neighbourhood Watch

A new NW roundel was presented at the conference which will come into effect this year.



Once we have received the licence we can officially use the new logo and we will be updating our stationery over a period of time.

We will announce to our Members when we receive the new roundels and will be giving them out to existing Members through our Area and Street Coordinators.

Police & Crime Commissioner's Thank You Event

This was a countywide event and other volunteer groups were also invited from:

Central Neighbourhood Watch, Luton Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, which is part of Central and Speed Watch, which is County wide.

We are pleased to say that four awards were given to Area Coordinators from Bedford & District.



Amelia Reeves has been our A/C in Podington for two years. Consistent in developing Podington and now helping Hinwick get started. Setting up a scheme in Farndish.



Ajit Shah started his scheme from scratch in the newly built Spire Estate and now has an active scheme.



Cherry Protheroe from Little Staughton, who has run a very successful scheme for years.

An example for us all.



Tim Redfearn has been A/C in Willington for many years and heads a well-run and active scheme.

These four are just a sample of the many excellent schemes we have in Bedford and District, serving the community through Neighbourhood Watch.

Update on OURWATCH

As you know, last April we at Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch uploaded our database onto the National NW system.

For us, this has three purposes:

1. It is our membership database

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH**

2. a messaging system



3. we have gained a micro website.

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Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service are already using this system as their messaging service

In December, Bedfordshire Police changed over from Ringmaster and they uploaded their database and joined this messaging system. The system is called "OURWATCH" and the messaging service is called "ALERT" We are delighted to be linked and working with our Partners in this way.

Graham Boyle, our Treasurer and County OURWATCH Administrator, gave us a progress update.

There are now over 20,000 registered members on the system.

There are some teething problems:

1. Some members now showing twice since the Police joined the system. This is being gradually rectified.
2. There are some Members who have not activated their account since the up load in April 2015.

If you were receiving messages from us before this and these have stopped, please make contact and we can send another verification email.

Mr Mervyn How

Colleen Atkins, founder of Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch and Chair of the Eastern Region Partnership, paid tribute to Mervyn who has retired as Area Coordinator after many loyal years' service to Neighbourhood Watch as Area Coordinator in Mowsbury.

Trustee, Margaret Carpenter accepted a small gift on Mervyn's behalf and will forward our good wishes to Mervyn.

We wish him a long and fruitful retirement.

Margaret has also offered to follow on from Mervyn as Area Coordinator for Mowsbury.

Following the success of the **Home Security Assessment** training from Lara Curtayne, Crime Reduction Officer, last November, we are holding another session at Police Headquarters.

Date to be confirmed.

The purpose of the training is to receive a basic understanding of home security and how to protect yourselves, to pass this to their neighbours and other members, if asked.

Details will be available on the website or through NW Office.



A big thank you to Lynne

Most of you will now be aware that Lynne Arch is leaving her role as Countywide Support Officer on the 4th February, for a long and well-earned rest.

Lynne, in various roles, has been part of NW for over 19 years and I know that we are all going to miss her friendly, helpful nature. Lynne was the first contact when you rang the Neighbourhood Watch number and was always willing to offer her support and expertise.



We wish Lynne all the best for her future

Next Quarterly Members Meeting: Wednesday 4th May 2016

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