



THE CO-ORDINATOR

Autumn 2004

Issue No. 17

The Newsletter of the Eastbourne NW Association – ‘encouraging the Community to work together to fight crime in close co-operation with the Police and supported by Eastbourne Borough Council’.

This copy is brought to you by your local Co-ordinator Address

Inside this issue: **Chairman’s Statement**

AGM **A new start!** Following a somewhat disorganised 18 months, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 7th September 2004. The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman, Mr Andrew Dakyns, and a vote of no confidence in the Interim Executive Committee was passed unanimously by the 58 people attending. A new Interim Executive Committee was voted in pending ratification at the next AGM. Your new Executive Committee now consists of:

Trading Standards

Data Link

**Security measures
this winter**

Chairman: Mr Lionel Lacey-Johnson
Vice Chairperson: Mrs Hetty Pittendigh
Secretary: Miss Linda Cook
Treasurer: Mr Derrick Martin

Gate Signs

Organisations

There is much to do, not least the re-opening of the Association’s account with Lloyds TSB in order to take advantage of offers of extra funding by the Eastbourne Crime Prevention Partnership and of course the production of regular Newsletters.

NWPSO

We must not forget the main aims of Neighbourhood Watch; these are clearly defined in the opening paragraph of the Sussex NW Federation guide for Co-ordinators. To my mind, there are two distinct but interrelated themes – first there is the watching out and caring for our neighbours, knowing when they are away and removing any tell tale signs such as ‘wheelie bins’ left out for days on end and newspapers left in letter boxes overnight and knowing when an elderly neighbour is unwell and in need of help. Then there is the actual business of helping the Police to reduce crime by reporting suspicious or unusual activity. We are fortunate in Eastbourne in that we have our own NW Support Office which has access to the Police incident log and has the ability to warn Co-ordinators in affected areas of new ‘scams’ and new methods of break in being used by burglars.

**National NW
Association: The
Latest**

Fraud Protection

**Nuisance Telephone
Calls**

We do have a reasonable number of Co-ordinators in the Eastbourne area but some are trying to look after too many dwellings. The ideal is about 20 homes per Co-ordinator and the absolute maximum should be about 50. More Co-ordinators are therefore urgently required and I ask everyone to try and persuade more potential Co-ordinators to come forward. The whole business is run on a voluntary basis but the passing on of information via telephone or ‘flyers’ created on personal computers does entail some cost and most Co-ordinators have had to face the question by their partners “who is paying for all this”. It is hoped that a system might be introduced whereby some very limited reimbursement may be made in the hope that it will encourage greater dissemination of important and timely information. Unity of purpose is my cry and I look forward to working with you all to the good of the community as a whole.

How to contact
Police
NWPSO
Trading Standards
Your Committee

Lionel Lacey-Johnson

Notice of Annual General Meeting

All co-ordinators and members of any NW scheme receiving this newsletter are cordially invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting of the Association in Christ The King Church Hall (Near Langney Roundabout) on the 25th November 2004 starting at 7.30pm.**

The guest speaker will be Chief Inspector Peter Mills. There will be a very limited time for general questions. The formal business will follow and this will include the election of Officers. Nominations are required in advance for the following posts: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Editor/Publicity Officer. Nominations to be sent to the Secretary (Address page 4) by the 18th November

Data Link

Supplies of Data Link forms, containers and refrigerator stickers are available from the Secretary. This is a valuable aid for the Emergency Services in cases of accident or sudden collapse. If you are unaware of how the system works, please contact the Chairman.

Trading Standards

East Sussex Trading Standards have issued a new warning against the buying of counterfeit goods and receipt of postal scams. People are urged to say "No" to doorsteps callers and tear up scam mail such as "You have just won a valuable cash prize". Whatever else you do, never send any money or pay in advance for services. If you have doubts about a letter or doorstep caller, you can obtain advice from the Customer Advice Team on (01323) 418200.

There are numerous scams doing the rounds at the moment regarding inheritance. For example, a long lost relative or even a total stranger who has died leaving a substantial amount of money in a bank account and a nice man or woman who works for a firm of Private Investigators/Security Consultants, or the bank itself, emails and wants you to establish beyond reasonable doubt your eligibility to 'assume status of successor in title to the deceased' But they 'are constrained from providing you with more detailed information at this point'. If this is all beginning to sound familiar, then you are well on your way to becoming a scam spotter!

For more information and/or advice on this subject visit:

www.sussex.police.uk/community_safety/fraud_4.asp

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Protect your home this winter

With the start of winter it is time to review your home security. Please help the Police by:

- Marking your valuables using your Post Code.
- Secure windows and doors, add bolts and keep all keys, including car keys out of sight.
- Consider fitting intruder alarms and obtain the services of a reputable Security Company.

Use time switches to have lights coming on and off but remember to change the pattern

Gate Post Signs

Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation is now able to supply Neighbourhood Watch Gate Post signs.

These are self fixing, measure approximately 3"x2" and are designed to go on gates to properties with a short driveway.

The cost will be 75p per sign and bids should be made to the NWPSO at Hammonds Drive (Telephone (01323) 414218).

Fraud Protection

Identity Fraud is a growing problem in the UK. The following is a summary of advice received:

- Always keep important personal documents, plastic cards and cheque books in a safe place.
- Do not share personal information with anyone unless you know who you are dealing with. Be careful of cold-calling by a 'bank' – a genuine bank will only ask for specific characters within your password.
- Dispose of bank statements with care – preferably by shredding.
- Do not let credit cards out of your sight when making a transaction.

Organisation

All Wards, except Langney, now have representatives who attend the General Committee Meetings. These reps will in future be known as Ward Co-ordinators and their main function will be to co-ordinate the administrative requirements of the Co-ordinators in their Wards and pass these to the Executive for action. Meetings of Ward Co-ordinators will be quarterly and will provide a means of disseminating information on latest trends in crime and the availability of latest leaflets, etc.

John Meredith

Partner of the



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FINANCIAL ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Nuisance Telephone Calls

Telephone sales companies sometimes enter all the telephone numbers of a certain district onto a computer dialling system. This can result in several unwanted calls a day from the same source. To stop this and all unsolicited calls you can register your number with the Telephone Preference Service, Telephone: 0800 398 893. Unsolicited calls should stop within 28 days.

Neighbourhood Watch Police Support Office (NWPSO)

The NWPSO is run by volunteers who sit alongside the Police Crime Prevention Officer and have access to the Police incident log. Items of interest to Co-ordinators are passed to individual Co-ordinators or, in the case of a general alert, to all Co-ordinators via the Ringmaster System. To be included in the Ringmaster System, Co-ordinators must have completed a Data Protection Form. Forms may be obtained by a telephone call to the NWPSO on (01323) 414218 and completed forms should be sent back to the NWPSO at the Hammonds Drive Patrol Centre, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN23 6PW.

The NWPSO is not a 24-hour, 7 days a week operation and callers should be prepared to leave a message on an answerphone. Calls should be restricted to NW matters, and should not be about on-going situations that require a Police presence.

National NW Association

The Home Office has recently commissioned a study to explore ways in which NW can be further supported. One of the main recommendations is that there should be more integration of NW with other community issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour and care of the elderly. The National NW Association will remain in being, albeit in a somewhat reduced form, and has the full backing of the Home Office.

When and how to contact

Police: Crime in progress – dial 999.

Recent crime or suspicion – dial 0845 60 70 999

Anonymous information about a crime

Crimestoppers – dial 0800 555 111

NWPSO

How to set up a scheme, report any crime that does not require an immediate response by the Police or ask for data protection forms – dial (01323) 414218

For leaflets, etc and to speak to the Crime Prevention Officer – dial (01323) 414103

Trading Standards

If in doubt about a Trader – dial (01323) 418200

Eastbourne NW Association

You can write to the Secretary at Flat 4, 8 Hurst Road, Eastbourne, BN21 2PL or email on lincook@bn212pl.fsnet.co.uk

Chairman: (01323) 728958

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