

## Kick start your National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Week



Building on from the first Neighbourhood Watch Week which started in Bedford in 1985, Neighbourhood Watch Week is traditionally an annual event which draws the focus of the movement together across the country.

Neighbourhood & Home Watch Week 2010 will run from 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 to the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and the focus will be on developing safer communities. You may already have set your own local objectives and that is fine because we acknowledge that you are best placed to know what issues are important to people in your locality.

We are all aware that the new coalition government brings new ideas, concepts and challenges for us all. Their concept of a 'Big Society' which provides local people with more power to influence local initiatives is one which we believe the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network across England & Wales should be part of.

To help you to encourage further membership and to support members and partners during National Neighbourhood & Home Watch Week 2010 we have added new and exciting information to the enclosed USB stick. We hope that you will want to share this information with your members and colleagues and we hope you will find it useful to promote and encourage new membership.

All information will also be available on our website at [www.mynhw.co.uk](http://www.mynhw.co.uk), so please signpost both watch members and police colleagues to this should they wish to download the information for their own use.

To assist us in delivering these new and exciting initiatives and to support the movement and our partners, NHWN has recruited three new staff. I have attached to this letter the new staff contact details (see Appendix A). Their role will be to help NHWN to deliver the key objectives within the 2010-15 NHWN Business Plan which will include:

- Offering support and development to the network's grassroots in keeping with their needs
- Expanding the inclusivity of Neighbourhood and Home Watch
- Building the profile and influence of Neighbourhood and Home Watch
- Establishing a robust, effective and sustainable structure for NHWN
- Working to ensure the network's financial sustainability

More information on the NHWN framework and five year business plan can be found on [www.mynhw.co.uk](http://www.mynhw.co.uk)

When considering our traditional partnerships, there is considerable overlap in the aims of Neighbourhood Policing and the Neighbourhood Watch movement, particularly in

respect of crime prevention, sharing intelligence and identifying issues of local concern. We hope that by promoting and sharing information with the police and other partners we can illustrate how effective a strong and well supported NHW movement can be. By encouraging schemes to work with both their police and other community safety partners, we hope to be able to strengthen the position and relevance that NHW can command. We want to ensure that local NHW schemes and area associations are considered as reliable partners in helping to deliver local initiatives for local communities.

During 2009-10 NHW and Age UK worked together to develop a toolkit and provide training for Watch members to help them in 'Supporting Older Neighbours'. The toolkit (along with a PowerPoint presentation) is now available for others to use on this USB stick as well as on our website. This toolkit highlights the importance of working together with other local partners to provide support for some of the most vulnerable people within our communities, and we hope you will be encouraged to use this to help those most at risk within your own local communities.

As part of our work with the elderly and vulnerable in our communities, NHCN is also proud to be able to circulate and promote the **new** National Distraction Burglary leaflet and a series of posters, which have been produced by the Home Office and Operation Liberal and supported by EnergySure. This leaflet provides valuable information to promote awareness around distraction burglary and provides relevant and consistent advice for older and vulnerable people across England & Wales.

National Neighbourhood Watch Week also provides us with time to reflect on some of the other good work which the movement has undertaken and this is reflected in the 'Showcasing Neighbourhood and Home Watch Achievements' document. This research was commissioned by NHCN and completed on our behalf by ERS Research and Consultancy.

As part of National Neighbourhood & Home Watch Week 2010 and in line with 'building the Big Society', we are delighted to be able to announce the launch of a **new** National BTEC qualification for Watch members and other community groups. This new course, titled 'Advocacy for Community Organisers', will be launched as part of our new Neighbourhood Watch Academy programme. It will be a recognised qualification designed especially for us and will be based upon our existing toolkit and will also incorporate new initiatives and developments for community engagement.

More details will be announced on our website in due course. We will also providing further information for those who wish to find out more about the course and would like to register their interest in attending the course in the future. The first intake of students is envisaged to be in autumn 2010, with the first Neighbourhood Watch Academy training day being located in the East Midlands.

Finally we are delighted to be able to announce the chance for any NHW scheme to win £50 worth of security equipment for its members.

Since our website [www.mynhw.co.uk](http://www.mynhw.co.uk) was launched during NHW week 2008 there have been over 800 news stories sent to us for publication on the site. For 2010 we are

offering a prize to the 1000<sup>th</sup> story to be submitted for inclusion on the site from any Watch member or scheme. The story should include news about how their local scheme, county, or force association is planning to celebrate NHW Week in 2010 or any other relevant news stories. Please see our competition article for more details and send any news stories you wish to be added to both the regional and national pages of the site to [catherine.dunn@nationalnhw.org](mailto:catherine.dunn@nationalnhw.org)

I wish you every success in your National NHW Week and remember to let us know how your events or promotions went and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion Lewis".

**Marion Lewis**  
**Chair of Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network (England & Wales)**