

Sussex NHW Federation update

Neighbourhood Watch stalwarts retire

Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation recently said goodbye to two stalwarts who have helped lead Neighbourhood Watch over many years.

Brenda Whitmell, the retiring Chair of the Federation, has given over 20 years service to Neighbourhood Watch, guiding all aspects across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The incoming Chair, John Wright, presented Brenda with a Certificate of Achievement to commemorate "Many years of guiding Neighbourhood Watch in Sussex; for contributions to the Neighbourhood Watch Federation future direction; for wise words on Crime Prevention 'teaching'; for all the communications; for 'Engineering' signs solutions; for travelling many miles; working many hours covering many roles, and representing Sussex at both a Regional and National level."

Robin Matthews, Vice Chair for East Sussex and Treasurer, also retired. John presented him with a Certificate of Achievement "For many years of Guiding Neighbourhood Watch in East Sussex; for contributions to the Neighbourhood Watch Federation future direction; for attending many County and National Neighbourhood Watch conferences; for wise counsel; for travelling many miles; working many hours and covering the vital role of Treasurer."

Speaking to the large gathering at the Annual General Meeting, Brenda said that she was honoured to receive the Certificate which would take pride of place in her home. She added: "Somehow I feel flattered that as I retire it will take five people to cover the roles previously done by three people. I wish the new Committee and the Federation every success for the future, as I know that you will be in safe hands."

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.