

# WATCH OUT

The Avon & Somerset Watch Newsletter



## Change is afoot!

It has been an exciting month for the Watch as we now have a treasurer for the organisation (more about this later in this issue). I have been working as interim chair for about a year setting everything up largely on my own, so it is great to be able to have some help.

An important part of the treasurer's role will be to source funding for Avon & Somerset Watch, as we are dependant on bid funding and donations to undertake our work.

I am optimistic that we are now in a position to start gaining funds with which we can undertake some of the exciting projects I have planned.

You may have also noticed that this issue of the newsletter looks a little different. I've been busy learning the graphic design software that I use for our newsletters and I hope you'll agree that this issue is an improvement upon the last which definitely looked a bit "rough around the edges."

Finally, I would like to congratulate Adrian Stone, coordinator of the Bingham Court scheme near Langport, New Somerset for his winning suggestion of 'Watch Out' as the name for our newsletter. There is a valuable Avon & Somerset Watch "No Prize" winging it's way to him as you read this!

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

New team member!

This is your organisation - Have your say...

The Toolbox - OHFSC

Community Safety Charter

Coordinator Spotlight

## New team member!

I'm thrilled to be able to introduce our new Treasurer Keiran Harcombe. Keiran is a coordinator in New Somerset and has experience in setting up the finances for charitable organisations like Avon & Somerset Watch, and he will be assisting us in administering our bank account and finding sources of funding. Welcome Keiran!

Don't forget that we still need a **Deputy Chair, Secretary, and County Representatives** to help run Avon & Somerset Watch. Email [avonandsomersetwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:avonandsomersetwatch@yahoo.com) if you are interested.



## This is your organisation - Have your say...

There are over 3500 watch members and coordinators on Neighbourhood Alerts, and even more registered on the police Community Alerts system. Since the last issue of this newsletter, we have only received 24 replies to the survey I launched.

I am keen that as many members as possible have the opportunity to let us know what you want us to prioritise. Therefore, I will keep the survey open for a further month.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, and you can access it by visiting: <https://www.surveylegend.com/s/4dce>

## The Toolbox - OHFSC

The National Fire Chiefs Council in partnership with SafeLincs have produced a fantastic resource called the Online Home Fire Safety Check (OHFSC).

The website allows you to answer questions about your (or someone else's) home, allowing the system to assess how vulnerable you are to fire, and whether you would benefit from a fire safety visit. If so, you can give permission for your details to be forwarded to your local Fire & Rescue Service (General Data Protection Registration compliant).

The survey takes about five minutes, and does ask some personal questions (such as how messy you are, and if you use recreational drugs) but these things are asked to help keep you safe, not to judge you, so be honest.

You can access the OHFSC by visiting: <https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/>







# Community safety charter

The Neighbourhood Watch Network have developed the Community Safety Charter that allows individuals, businesses, government organisations, and charities (amongst others) to tackle local crimes in public spaces such as harassment, hate crime, and anti social behaviour.

Already 1320 individuals and organisations have signed the charter including local authorities, schools, and myself! If you are interested in learning more about the charter, and perhaps signing it on behalf of yourself, or an organisation your involved with, visit: <https://ourwatch.org.uk/charter>

*We pledge to:*

### PROMOTE

Promote a culture that does not tolerate antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility towards others

### ENABLE

Enable others to identify and take an active stance against these crimes and incidents

### REPORT

Actively encourage and support those who experience or witness these crimes and incidents to report them to the relevant authorities

### SUPPORT

Support those affected and signpost those who need further support to agencies who can help them

[ourwatch.org.uk/charter](https://ourwatch.org.uk/charter)

#BETHECHANGE

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO No. 1173349



## Coordinator Spotlight - Jeff White: Wedmore Village Watch

Jeff is a retired Army Major who has so many strings to his bow, it's almost a harp!

After leaving the Armed Forces, he worked for over 20 years as a mentor and facilitator for small businesses in Somerset. He was a key part in facilitating a bid for a Somerset Business Link to the government.

Later, Jeff worked for the Department of Trade & Industry as their Quality & Accreditation Director. Following this, Jeff successfully owned and managed a small hotel and pub on Exmoor. Whilst doing all of this, he also bred a Basset Hound that won a Kennel Club Champion Award!

Nowadays, Jeff is helping the individual watch schemes in Wedmore work together.

Jeff cites his hobbies as watching Rugby Union; trekking around Europe & Ireland; and tinkering with his 1997 MG F sports car.

It's great to hear about other coordinators, and how their schemes are doing. If you'd like to contribute, please email me at [avonandsomersetwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:avonandsomersetwatch@yahoo.com)

I'm enjoying getting to know coordinators and members all across the region from the messages that are sent to me. Please keep them coming by messaging me on Neighbourhood Alerts (the national Neighbourhood Watch system), or by emailing me at [avonandsomersetwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:avonandsomersetwatch@yahoo.com).

If you don't receive a reply immediately, I'm not being rude and I value your contact. I will get back to you!

Finally, I hope you enjoy this month's funny (on the right). Please be assured that by posting this, I do not condone fabrication on employment documents!

Until next issue,

**Frank Simonds - Interim Chair, Avon & Somerset Watch**  
Empowering Coordinators | Supporting Police | Helping Community

When you lie on  
your CV but you get  
the job

