



Newsletter

Autumn 2024

www.nevillresidentsassociation.org

Chair: Suzy Nelson

Treasurer: Kia Makepeace

Secretary: Lesley Healey

Editor: Carole Kirby

Since the last newsletter was produced some of the committee members have changed. The association has raised enough money to have the defibrillator installed at the entrance of St Mary's Church Hall. It has also been given a grant for a feasibility study on how to make Nevill Road and the junction with Nevill Crescent safer. It has held two public meetings.

At the NRA Annual General Meeting on 25 April 2024 a new committee was elected.

Suzy Nelson - Chair
Lesley Healey - Secretary
Kia Makepeace - Treasurer
Mike Fisk
Jane Jackson
Carole Kirby
Vicki Trenhaile

Jane Jackson has since resigned, but will continue to raise funds for NRA.

Fiona Griffin has been co-opted onto the committee.

Nevill Defibrillator and Sussex Heart Charity

Carolyn Tyrer, from Sussex Heart Charity, was invited to speak at the AGM. The charity has helped fund Nevill's defibrillator which has been installed by the entrance to St Mary's Church Hall. At the moment, Jane Jackson is guardian of the Nevill defibrillator. The aim of the charity is that everyone should have access to defibrillators. They first funded them for ambulances and then installed them in railway stations. Now, as people become more aware how important they are to saving lives, the charity has received many requests for help.

Once the machine is activated it will talk to you and tell you exactly what to do. Pads are placed on the chest. To ensure good contact with the skin, hairy chests have to be trimmed, women's bras must be cut, and neck chains cut. To facilitate this, scissors and a razor are provided. To help residents feel more confident about using a defibrillator the committee hopes to organise a training course in either just using the machine or a broader first aid course. The defibrillator has already been removed once for a medical emergency.

At the Nevill Yard Sale in June a total of £590 was raised for Sussex Heart Charity, and NRA also made a £100 donation to the charity.

Neighbourhood Safety was the theme of the NRA Open Meeting on 23 September 2024.

PCSO James Pollock spoke to the meeting about his role in the community. He is based in Lewes and is part of a team of three PCSOs. His responsibility as a PCSO differs from warrant officers. He cannot make arrests and cannot put blue lights on his vehicle. He can attend all levels of crimes, but he mainly focuses on lower level crimes. Most of the issues he deals with are cold callers and people who cruise around the area in white vans apparently looking for opportunities to steal items like bicycles and metal etc.

If you are suspicious take the registration number and report it on 101 for non-urgent calls, 999 for urgent calls. You can also report online

<https://www.sussex.police.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/sussexpoliceforce>

If you suspect a cold caller to be a scammer, report them with any vehicle identification you can see. The police receive about five reports of new scams a week. Investment fraud is the latest one and he advised people not to give personal information unless confident the person is who they say they are. It is better to hang up the phone and seek advice.

Over the summer months he has dealt with antisocial behaviour, especially people on dirt bikes, stolen bicycles, public order offences, and teenagers causing a nuisance. In September there were many reports of speeding and a local car crash. Be aware police are doing more speed checks using unmarked cars.

Neighbourhood Watch

Carolyn Blayney spoke to the meeting about her experience of running the NW group for Hawkenbury Way and up to the junction of South Way for the last sixteen years. It is the only remaining NW group left from several that were set up on the estate when the NRA first started over 20 years ago. It has remained successful because the residents are very sociable and supportive of each other. It is also well supported by the police and the national NW organisation.

There are three ways to join Neighbourhood Watch.

1. Join as an individual online. You will receive police, NW alerts and other information.
2. Join as a group with a coordinator.
3. Join as an affiliated organisation

It was suggested that NRA should investigate becoming an affiliated group. For further information see: www.ourwatch.org.uk/join

Feasibility Study on Improving Road Safety

The Nevill Residents Association has received a grant from Lewes Town Council to commission a study on how to make Nevill Road and the junction with Nevill Crescent and South Way safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The consultants, who will be undertaking the review, are already working on the broader Lewes Movement Strategy, being led by the Town Council. The study will take into account the road safety concerns which have been raised on the Nevill Community WhatsApp. If you have issues that you want to raise, please email chairnevill.residents@gmail.com.

Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust (OART) with funding from Lewes District Council have installed 21 rainwater planters on the Nevill. These capture rainwater from downpipes or overflows from rainwater butts and slow down the rate at which water flows into the sewage system thus making a contribution to reducing the risk of flooding. OART will be conducting a survey to get feedback from people who have had them installed. At present there is no funding available to install any more, but if you would be interested contact rachel.paget@oart.org.uk.



At the meeting the problem of driveways increasing the volume of water going into the road drains was discussed. It was pointed out that new paved areas over 5 square metres in front gardens should have permeable surfaces or drain to soakaways. Otherwise planning permission is required.

Unfortunately, the bench outside the shops was damaged. This had to be repaired twice by Men's Shed to make it robust. Turning the seat round to face the oncoming bus, was not possible on the existing concrete base. Cllr Wendy Maples is investigating the possibility of a new base for a second bench facing the road, but this is likely to be expensive.

The last street weeding sessions for the year have taken place. Thanks to the many people who volunteer to clear the pavements of weeds to avoid the use of glyphosate by the County Council. This has been so successful that it has inspired other places in Lewes to start weeding their street.

The issue of overgrown hedges that obstruct the pavement for pedestrians, wheelchairs, prams etc was again highlighted. In places it is impossible to walk on the pavement. Please regularly check your front hedges to make sure the pavement is passable, otherwise the County Council may become involved.

To help NRA run successfully it needs help from residents. They do not need to join the committee.

1. Someone to keep the web site up to date.
2. Help with the Speedwatch group, checking speeding on Nevill Road. (One session per month)
3. Someone to become a defibrillator guardian. (Once weekly checks and monthly test)

On the 23rd November the Festive Fair will be held at St Mary's Social Centre and Supporters Club, Christie Road, 12.30-4.30. There will be a diverse range of wares from a collection of over 20 local artists, makers and producers. Printers, painters, potters and textile artists just to name a few. Delicious cakes and drinks will be served from Hilda's kitchen and the profits will be donated to Nevill Residents Association. Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society will be running a raffle, and the bar will be open. Refreshments, raffle and some stalls will be cash only. We'd love to see you there.



Nevill 2030 is pleased to announce that the Lewes Home Retrofit Guide is now finished and available on the Climate Hub website: lewesclimatehub.org/lewes-home-retrofit-guide. They have widened the scope beyond the Nevill and made the guide relevant to the range of houses in Lewes. They are very grateful to the householders who allowed them to visit and who had their houses assessed.

With the lockdowns fading into the past, Nevill Good Neighbours continues to be busy in our community. In fact, they are busier than ever. In the twelve months leading up to their last AGM in October 2023, Nevill Good Neighbours provided 622 'helps' to Nevill community residents, over six times more 'helps' than their first year in 2017/2018. The bulk of their work involves weekly contact with elderly and vulnerable neighbours through 'keeping in touch', home and hospital visits, and telephone calls. Although most of the 'regulars' are elderly or vulnerable neighbours who live on their own they support residents of any age or ability, whatever their circumstances. It's very satisfying when assistance is appreciated. Feedback from their neighbours has been very positive. One neighbour said "You've been so wonderful. So many times, I've needed something, and you've been there. It's so comforting". More information on the service plus their contact details are on the attached leaflet

7.30 pm St Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road

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