



Newsletter

Autumn 2025

www.nevillresidentsassociation.org

Chair: Carole Kirby

Treasurer: John Somerville

Secretary: Lesley Healey

Editor: Carole Kirby

Nevill Residents Association celebrated its 25th anniversary at the AGM on 18 May 2025 with cake and wine. It is still determined to keep doing the small things that will improve life on the estate. The pedestrian and traffic safety report has been completed and passed to ESCC for consideration. Now the committee is making preparation for winter, obtaining rock salt to fill the two salt bins NRA owns and gathering a team to help clear snow for vulnerable residents.

Report from the NRA AGM held on 18 May 2025

Following the resignation of Suzy Nelson as chair, and Kia Makepeace as treasurer, the rest of the committee were voted back. John Somerville was voted in as the new treasurer. The current committee is:

Carole Kirby – Chair
Lesley Healey – Secretary
John Somerville - Treasurer
Robert Massey
Mike Fisk
Vicki Trenhaile
Sarah O'Kane - co-opted
Fiona Griffin - co-opted

After general discussion about overgrown hedgerows, transport in Lewes and road safety, the meeting ended with wine and cake to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Open Meeting Held on 22 September 2025

The new chair started the meeting by thanking Suzy Nelson and Kia Makepeace for getting the NRA back on its feet after its near collapse after Covid.

The History of Nevill

Ann Holmes from Lewes History Group, was the guest speaker at the meeting to share her research on the history of Nevill. The plans for Nevill were started after the First World War as part of the campaign for 'Homes Fit for Heroes'. The Council bought the land from the Abergavenny Family Trust, and building started in 1920 along Nevill Crescent and Nevill Road. Most of the south of the estate was completed by 1930, but the Downs Estate (the crescents Firle, Hamsey, etc) was built during the 1930s by Ringmer Building Works. Hawkenbury Way was started in late 1930 but was delayed by the Second World War. Ann was very keen to gather stories from people who were children on Nevill, and have lived on the estate most of their lives.

Do you or your friends and neighbours have a story to tell about the history of the Nevill? Would you like to research and extend the history that is already on their site? See <https://leweshistory.org.uk/> and search Projects-Street Stories-Nevill. You'll find the early

history of the estate, lots of pictures and memories. Ann would love to include some more. There are other interesting street stories on the site too as well as information about their activities. Contact Ann Holmes, (Lewes History Group) via the form on the website

Treasurer's report

NRA started the year 1st April with a good balance. There was a credit from money raised by the Garden Trail, but a big outgoing for the traffic report (although this was a grant from the town council). There were some small general expenditures, and £142.50 for public liability insurance. NRA also holds £170 for any arising defibrillator expenses. It now has available funds of £911.50 some of which will be needed to pay for rock salt.

Garden Trail, report

The Nevill Garden Trail, a biennial event, took place on Sunday 13th July 2025. Despite it being a very hot day, it was well attended. Visitors were able to visit twelve gardens and partake of tea and cake at three, while one garden sold plants and another cards. They were delighted to raise £749.50 of which £400 has been given to the Lewes charity Homelink and the rest to Nevill Residents Association to be used for improvements to the estate.



On Wednesday 13th July Vicki Trenhaile accompanied by two garden owners, Denise Osborne and Anne Rosenfeid, plus Lesley Healey, representing the Nevill Residents Association, were able to present a cheque for £400 to Jane Lee of Homelink. Many thanks to Lynn Donoghue for organising the successful and popular event.

Preparation for snow

Robert Massey has set up a small WhatsApp group called 'Snow Angels' to help vulnerable neighbours clear snow in their area. NRA bought several snow shovels two years ago, which were distributed to representatives in most roads on the estate to share with residents. Apparently, some of these broke when being used after the heavy snow fall at the beginning of the year. If you are a NRA snow shovel holder, please let us know what condition it is in, email: chairnevill.residents@gmail.com.

Mike Fisk is looking into buying the association's own supply of rock salt to fill the two bins it owns, and where to store it. Most of the other bins across the estate are filled by ESCC and one by LDC.

Overgrown hedges on Pavements

Overgrown hedges on pavements are a perennial problem, frequently highlighted in this newsletter. They restrict visibility at road junctions, are problematic for wheelchair users, pushchairs and pedestrians. Robert Massey has offered to coordinate help for residents unable to cut back their hedges on their own. Otherwise, if the problem is reported to ESCC, they can insist that the hedge is cut back, or they will charge for using a contractor. If you need help contact: chairnevill.residents@gmail.com.

NRA Bus Timetable

The bus timetable leaflet that was distributed last year has been updated, and will be attached to this newsletter and put on NRA web site. As Compass Travel company found the circulation of the original timetable improved the use of the buses, it has agreed to pay £100 towards printing, NRA paying the remainder of the cost. **Please use the local buses whenever possible or we will lose the service.**

NRA campaign for improving safety on Nevill Road

Carole Kirby, Suzy Nelson and Councillor Wendy Maples met with members of East Sussex County Council's Road Safety Team to discuss the recommendations proposed by the transport consultants employed by the NRA for improving safety of pedestrians and cyclists on Nevill Road. They walked the length of the road and went through all of the improvements made in the detailed report (available from <https://www.nevillresidentsassociation.org/news/nevill-road-safety-report/>). The importance of a new, controlled crossing for pedestrians between the Nevill Road bus stops, and making the southern entrance to Nevill Crescent narrower to create a safer crossing for pedestrians were particularly stressed. The proposals in the report will be considered by Councillor Dowling, ESCC's lead member for transport, at a meeting in October which will review priorities for their Local Transport Plan.

Landport Bottom Management Plan

If you are interested in what is happening to Landport Bottom, look at the current plan on the Town Council website and give your comments, including on the use of ponies to Cllr Edwina Livesey cllr.Livesey@lewes-tc.gov.uk. The plan is being reviewed for 2026.

Lewes Neville W I

This October Lewes Neville W I celebrates its 40th birthday. It has been meeting every third Wednesday of the month at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Most months there is a speaker after which members get a chance to socialise over tea and biscuits. They are primarily a social group. In summer they have a garden party in a member's garden and at Christmas there is a party. They have a lunch group that meets at a local pub or restaurant for lunch on the first Wednesday of the month. They are a friendly group and welcome new members. You can have a trial visit to see if they are for you. *For further information contact Kay Hackett Tel: 01273 471924*

Festive Fair

Sunday 16th November 11am - 3 pm at St Mary's Social Centre and Supporters Club, Christie Road. There will be a diverse range of wares from a collection of over 20 local artists, makers and producers, potters, printers, and jewellery makers. Delicious cakes and drinks will be served from Hilda's kitchen, the profits being donated to the Brain Tumour Research charity. Nevill Juvenile bonfire society will be running a raffle, and the bar will be open from 12 noon. Refreshments, the raffle, and some stalls will be cash only.



Advent Window

In December houses across the Nevill take part in an Advent Window Display. Each participating house decorates a window, and every day a new festive window is revealed, creating a wonderful trail of light and creativity. This has become a much-loved Nevill tradition, with the full trail shining brightly on Christmas Eve for everyone to enjoy. If you'd like to join, please sign the calendar on WhatsApp: <https://bit.ly/nevilladvent>.

The Next NRA Meetings

Monday 9 February 2026 – Open Meeting

Monday 20 April 2026 – AGM

Monday 21 September 2026 Open Meeting

All at 7.30pm St Mary's Hall, Highdown Road.

Contact details:

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