



# Safe in East Sussex

## In Focus – Community Initiatives

January 2017

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The biggest problem in many communities is caused by perception more than reality. A part of town gets the reputation for being “bad”, or “declining”, which is constantly reinforced in the media and local gossip. A negative incident happening there is widely reported as more evidence of “social breakdown”, whereas the same thing occurring in another community would be thought of as “an unfortunate event” and quickly forgotten.



Everybody wants to live in a place where they feel safe. Here in the South East we are lucky, as on average we have lower levels of crime than in many parts of England.

However there is still a lot of crime related problems, and communities themselves can play a vital role in addressing these problems and helping their local neighbourhoods to feel safer.

We need to generate more and better community-led approaches that develop and promote the strengths of people and communities to be part of identifying and solving their local issues. This newsletter describes and presents some of the community initiatives that are taking place here in East Sussex.

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## Premier League Kicks



**Albion in the Community**  
Giving people a chance

Albion in the Community (AIRC) is now has the second-largest Premier League Kicks project in the UK – with only Swansea City offering more young people the chance to play weekly free football.

The Kicks sessions take place in some of the most-deprived parts of the south coast and combine free football with workshops and lifestyle advice in subjects like domestic violence, anti-homophobia, anti-racism, substance misuse and road safety. Volunteering opportunities are also available for participants. These are accompanied by numerous qualification and mentoring opportunities. They currently run more than 40 Kicks clubs during weekday evenings at venues throughout Sussex and free tournaments during the school holidays, with more than 2,500 young people taking part in sessions over the last 12 months.

A mini kicks programme has started which is open to anyone aged between seven-11 years of age. Premier League Kicks is open to anyone aged between seven and 18 and funding comes from the Premier League Charitable Fund, Sport England, Sussex Police and a wide range of housing associations and local authorities.

For more information on our Premier League Kicks programme, including where to find your nearest session, email: [premierleaguekicks@albioninthecommunity.org.uk](mailto:premierleaguekicks@albioninthecommunity.org.uk)

<http://www.albioninthecommunity.org.uk/football/football-inclusion/premier-league-kicks/>



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## Join The UK's Largest Voluntary Movement

Neighbourhood Watch began life in the UK over 30 years ago in response to rising crime, but today, as times change, it covers all aspects of keeping safe. The old fashioned view of neighbourhood watch involved the 'nosey' neighbour but now with our lives busier and with less time to get to know the people who live near us, it is quite comforting and reassuring that someone is keeping their eyes open and staying alert when we are not at home.



Neighbourhood Watch promotes good citizenship and greater public awareness through Neighbourhood Watch groups, increases public participation in the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour, reduces the fear of crime, improves police/community liaison and increases public and community safety.

The modern 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 background to create strong, cohesive communities that benefit everyone. Neighbourhood Watch acts as the eyes and ears of the community. As a result, it has been shown that Neighbourhood Watch areas are far less likely to be targeted by criminals.

**"Crime cannot flourish in a community that cares."**

In Sussex every Neighbourhood Watch member is a volunteer - they have no staff. They are a not-for-profit organisation, non-party in politics, and operate an equal opportunities and non-discriminatory policy. Anybody can join, regardless of their background, and membership is free.

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Neighbourhood Watch is a “grass roots” organisation, run by its members for its members. Anybody can join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Usually residents in a neighbourhood who support the aims and objectives of Neighbourhood Watch agree amongst each other that they will come together and form a local scheme, with the support of a local Association and Sussex Police. This might be one or two streets in a town, or even part of a street, or it could be an entire village. Neighbourhood Watch partners Sussex Police to check the suitability of the local coordinator to hold that position.

There are over 5,000 recognised schemes in Sussex covering some 126,000 households. Most schemes belong to a larger local group or Association, for example, representing Neighbourhood Watch in a town or district. These Associations provide a “voice” so that the views and concerns of residents can be addressed with the police and other relevant organisations at the right level to get things done. Representatives from these Associations based all over Sussex meet and support each other at the Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation. The website Contacts page gives full details, and the Links page will direct you to individual websites <http://www.sussexnwfed.org.uk/LocalArea>

Picture below: The Chairman of Rother Neighbourhood Watch, Ted Kemp, was delighted to welcome the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, to a packed public meeting at Bexhill Town Hall meeting last year

(L-R) are Derek Pratt Deputy Chair Sussex NHW Federation, Keith Miller, Katy Bourne, Ted Kemp and Insp. Anita Turner.



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## What is Paws on Watch?



Paws on Watch is for responsible dog walkers in the Wealden District area who sign-up to join the scheme. Dog walkers provide their email address and post-code which is recorded on a database held by Sussex Police. Their role as members is three-fold:

- To be vigilant when out and about on their walks and to report anything suspicious to the police;
- To challenge other dog walkers (if they feel confident enough to do so) who do not pick up after their dog; and
- Asked to look out for certain things (informed by email from Sussex Police) when there is a spate of a particular crime in an area (hence their postcode is used for filtering members).



Dr Jeremy Leach (Principle Policy Advisor at Wealden District Council) set the scheme up nearly two years ago.

The scheme has already attracted nearly 300 members; that sends out a message to those intent on mischief that the community is watching them and it also assists the police and council with gaining vital evidence. The

project and recruitment literature was designed using insights from the behavioural sciences. Members joining get a badge and a tag for their dog's collar, wearing them is optional!

### Did you know that there are over 20,000 dogs in the Wealden area?

Paws on Watch also has a Twitter account so that people can follow the scheme if they wish: @Paws\_On\_Watch

Further information can be found here:

[http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Community\\_and\\_Safety/Crime\\_and\\_Disorder/PHCS\\_Paws\\_On\\_Watch.aspx](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Community_and_Safety/Crime_and_Disorder/PHCS_Paws_On_Watch.aspx)

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## Street Games

Ken Dullaway has been helping young people find fulfilment through sport in Hastings and St Leonards-on-Sea for the past quarter of a century. Ken is involved in the ongoing work being developed through the Central St Leonards ASB project and is setting up a number of sessions in the vicinity to offer alternative activity provision for young people with nothing to do.

Respected equally in the local corridors of powers and the backstreets where young people hang out, Ken is as passionate about community sport today through his Hastings Street Games project as he was when he started.

*“Twenty five years ago I set up youth clubs with the help of the local church group to get the young people doing things rather than sitting on walls. That was in the Hollington Estates area which is one of big deprivation.”*

*The Hastings Street Games project came about because I was the Football Development Officer for Hastings Borough Council when the funding ran out. That was in 2007 and we then became involved with Street Games. My drive has always been to get the young people qualified and into employment. If I am truly honest, funding has always been the biggest challenge.”*



*Ken Dullaway receives The Street Games Lifelong Contribution to Doorstep Sport Award from Steve Hodkinson the Street Games Chair*

<http://www.streetgames.org/sites/default/files/StreetGames-Strategic-Plan-2013-2017.pdf>



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From earlier newsletters, readers will be familiar with the national Friends Against Scams initiative being run by the National Trading Standards Scams Team.

**Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to... 'Take a Stand Against Scams.'**

**Friends Against Scams is designed to inspire action, highlight the scale of the problem, change the perceptions of why people fall for scams and make**

*"The awareness raising sessions have given the libraries a buzz; they've been well attended and library visitors have valued the advice received from the supporting partner organisations."*  
(East Sussex County Council, Library & Information Service)

Several sessions have already been held within East Sussex for members of the general public, businesses and organisations. The following comments have been received to the question "What did you take from the session?"

*"How important it is to be aware of scams as it is so easy to be taken in by the scammers and the consequences can be devastating."* (Carer, Care for the Carers Forum)

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“Keep a watch for anyone who shows the classic signs of being scammed and offer help and advice” (East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Volunteer)



“Make colleagues and friends aware, and encourage friends to request this training in their workplaces” (Attendee from Wealden District Council)

***“I would recommend East Sussex residents either go along to a group Friends Against Scams session or do the 20 minute online version so they can learn how to protect themselves, and others they care for, from being targeted by criminals. This is such an important issue and there are so many different types of scams affecting people of all ages and backgrounds in our county. Remember - scams are fraud and fraud is a crime!”***

Cllr Angela Snell

(Polegate Town Council and Wealden District Council representing Polegate North).

For further information, please visit [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk) and either request a group session for your staff and/or members, or do the 20 minute online session. Remember: scams are fraud and fraud is a crime!

Sessions already planned can be found here and people are very welcome to attend

<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/session.php?xCmd=find>



**NATIONAL  
TRADING  
STANDARDS**  
Scams Team

**Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative**

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## Together we CAN make a difference

The Sussex Armed Forces Network Conference Together **we CAN make a difference** took place at the Amex Stadium on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January an event to let members of the armed forces community, professionals from all areas and charitable organisations know about the work which is taking place across Sussex to improve the outcomes and services for the armed forces community.

SUSSEX  
**ARMED  
FORCES  
NETWORK**

The event showcased some of the work which has been done to help break down the barriers between organisations and give examples of what can be achieved to meet the Armed Forces Covenant.

### What is the Armed Forces Covenant?



The Covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the government and the Armed Forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the Armed Forces and their families, and it establishes how they should expect to be treated. It exists to redress the disadvantages that the Armed Forces community faces in comparison to other citizens, and to recognise sacrifices made. Further information can be found here:

<http://www.sussexarmedforcesnetwork.nhs.uk/about/the-covenants/>

  
Ministry  
of Defence

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015



The Sussex Armed Forces Network has been recognised in the Ministry of Defence's Armed Forces Covenant Annual report for 2015 (see page 20 of the report) for its work to raise awareness of the armed forces community and provide sustainable support by integrating this knowledge within existing services.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/491590/20160112-AFC\\_AR\\_2015\\_Ver\\_12\\_WEB\\_VER2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491590/20160112-AFC_AR_2015_Ver_12_WEB_VER2.pdf)

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## Service Dogs UK

Dogs can make all the difference that's why Service Dogs UK trains and provides assistance dogs, selected carefully from mainly rescue, to support members of the Armed Forces and Emergency Services (including Coast Guard & RNLI) who have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Service Dogs UK train dogs to the highest standard with the goal of achieving ADI accreditation (Assistance Dogs International). Once the dogs have completed their basic training the Veterans would be actively involved in their advanced training. This a journey the partnership will take together for their mutual benefit. Initially Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey based, they hope to be able to go nationwide within 5 years.

Through their mission they want to remove the stigma surrounding PTSD together with the stigma in relation to rescue dogs. The organisation was founded and is run by Garry Botterill and Judith Broug who developed a friendship over a number of years because of their shared interest in assistance dogs and PTSD. The organisation is run on a voluntary basis. For further information please access their website here: <http://www.servicedogsuk.org/who-we-are/>



Judith Broug talking about how they can support veterans with PTSD at The Sussex Armed Forces Network Conference

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## Combat Stress

Combat Stress are the leading Veterans' mental health charity in the UK providing treatment for ex-Service personnel suffering with mental ill-health including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression.



They have developed this quick Myth Buster guide to answer some questions they hear regularly. They want people to know more about Veterans' mental health and the symptoms of trauma so that they can have the conversations that tackle stigma and make it easier for people to seek help.

<http://www.combatstress.org.uk/veterans/myth-busters/>



### **Most UK Armed Forces personnel who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan return with psychological injuries.**

.....The majority of Armed Forces personnel deployed do not experience lasting mental wounds as a result of their service. However, around 1 in 25 Regulars and 1 in 20 Reservists will report symptoms of PTSD following deployment in Iraq or Afghanistan. This is very similar to the rate in the general population.

In some cases, Veterans may be offered a short period of treatment at one of our three residential centres, in Ayrshire, Shropshire and Surrey. The length of stay will vary from two days to six weeks, depending on the treatment package that is agreed.



The warm and friendly atmosphere at all of the centres allows Veterans to feel at home, amongst other Veterans whose experiences may be similar to their own.

Since September 2011, Combat Stress has been running an innovative and Intensive PTSD Treatment Programme, providing support for Veterans with complicated presentations of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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## Routes Puppets

Steve Wright and his team present their unique Educational Puppet Theatre Shows on a number of issue based subjects for young people. Citizenship, Drugs and Alcohol, Equality and Diversity, Sexual Health and Relationships, Anti-Social Behaviour, Bullying and Racism.

They have presented across the UK from inner city to rural settings and impacted audiences of all backgrounds.

Next month Routes Puppets will be coming to Bexhill College to present their 'Prevent' themed puppet performance in the Izzard Theatre to students and other local school students. You can see a short introduction to this on YouTube here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWwpl\\_YYrZQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWwpl_YYrZQ)



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## Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team

Beachy Head Chaplaincy has been patrolling the cliffs since 2004 reaching out to those in distress, seeking to save lives at Beachy Head.

The Frontline proactive team is the workhorse of Beachy Head Chaplaincy. Every front line member of BHCT is part of this team and their work in other team roles is in addition to this. Proactive patrols operate every day of the year, covering a search area which expands to over 1900 acres and includes up to 6 miles of cliff edge. They are operated both in 4x4 vehicles and on foot.

The team works in pairs, searching the cliff edge, downland and car parks looking out for those who are despondent. At night the team uses vehicle mounted and handheld search lamps to search the area. Each team member is highly trained in suicide intervention and will intervene with any person found often in conjunction with the emergency services.

As well as proactive patrols, the team provides an immediate response to searches for missing persons passed on to BHCT.

These calls include missing person searches from Sussex Police, incidents from HM Coastguard, searches from members of the public concerned for relatives or friends and calls regarding suspicious persons from the local pubs, car park staff and visitors to Beachy Head.

<http://www.bhct.org.uk/wp/>



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