



A late summer welcome to all from the Chair !

By observation, you will be aware that the Association has not been in a position to publish our hitherto quarterly magazine since effectively ending mass paper publication in June 2024. This is down to a number of factors but, mainly, the time availability of the very limited number of people who currently produce this. All posts in the organisation are entirely voluntary.

The current Committee met recently to discuss the best way forward in terms of ongoing communication. The basic conclusion that we came to was that the whole concept of a quarterly magazine was somewhat out of date in today's world of instant communication. The previous two years of magazines have comprised of extracts from the West Midlands Police Blog – recently renamed just 'News'. These contained items related to Walsall as well as those being of more general Midlands interest. However, this meant that by the time the magazine was published, many of the articles were months out of date. *The same information is readily available, on a daily basis, to anyone with internet access at :-* <https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/news/west-midlands/news/>.

Contact information can be found on our main website – <https://www.ohnw.co.uk>

Our two WhatsApp groups continue to provide up to the minute information on events happening on or related to our Estate. We plan to expand these to include ongoing issues as they arise rather than reporting them some time later. To an extent, this has already started to happen with items being posted regarding planning applications being a prime example ! **To join either WhatsApp group, please make an email request to chair@ohnw.co.uk not forgetting to include your mobile phone number.**

We are aware that there are a small number of people (27) who had requested ongoing paper copies of the magazine for various reasons. To help accommodate these people, an option would be to collate for printing - say each month or two at the most - the WhatsApp items that have been published daily. For this to happen we need volunteers to both collate those items and distribute the resulting news sheets. Please consider whether you are able to help with this and contact me if you are !

The Committee also decided that it was best to move future AGMs out of the main summer holiday period. Accordingly, **the 2025 AGM will be held on Thursday 18th September 2025 at 19:30 in St Martins Church large hall** (please note that this is a slight change of location). As usual, the meeting will be broadcast on our **YouTube Channel** for those unable to attend in person – more details to follow.

Finally, we currently have 127 members of the 'Open' WhatsApp group and 108 members of the 'Filtered' group. In addition, we have a mailing list of over 200 people. Last financial year we received a total of 70 donations of £2 or more. This is now insufficient to cover the basic running costs of the organisation meaning that the funds we hold are being gradually depleted. If you have not contributed, please consider doing so this year at :- https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=3E5WPCRTN9PCY

My thanks to the current Committee for their support throughout the year. We welcome any offers of help to aid the task of keeping our local community as safe and informed as possible.

Bob Clarke, Chair 2024/5 – chair@ohnw.co.uk – 07973 712357 – WhatsApp and SMS