

# Worthing NHW Newsletter



November 2023

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## Digital Switchover - scam warning



From 2025, the old analogue telephone landline network will be switched to digital, meaning that all phone calls will go through the Internet, and everyone will require broadband to make landline phone calls. Criminals are already using this change to scam vulnerable people. Remember to **never** provide personal or financial information to a cold caller, whoever they may claim to be. You can find out more about scams and fraud with our dedicated resource sheet.

AgeUK also has a useful webpage where you can read more about the Digital Switchover, especially if you need new equipment or support to make the change.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk>

## Worthing Burglaries & Vehicle Crime

Specific details of Burglaries & Vehicle crime are not available at this time.

<https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/>

## The Children's Society

This year, The Children's Society (<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>) is running its award-winning LookCloser campaign, which is aimed at raising awareness of child exploitation and how to spot and report it. This campaign is being run in conjunction with the British Transport Police and the National County Lines Coordination Centre. Countrywide, young people are being manipulated, sexually abused, forced to launder money and deal drugs. On a conservative estimate, 46,000 children (some as young as six) are thought to be involved in gangs and some 4,000 teenagers are being criminally exploited in London alone. And 84% of parents are worried about county lines in their area.

Child exploitation begins when criminals start building a manipulative relationship (online and/or offline) with children, who may then be sexually abused, forced into labour or to skip school, made to launder criminal money and to sleep in drug dens, coerced into transporting drugs or stealing from shops, and keeping secrets from loved ones.

Young people are targeted at fast food outlets, shopping centres and parks. They are forced to travel on trains, buses, coaches and use roadside services for rest stops. It can also happen 'behind closed doors' in hotels, salons, and car washes, or online through gaming platforms or social media.

Any child can be exploited but, by learning to spot the signs and how to report, we can keep children safe from this abuse. If something doesn't feel right, call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency, or report online – but only report your concerns when it is safe for you to do so, even if this is after the event that your concerns initially arose.

If you are on a train, you can text the British Transport Police on 6106. Information on routes of travel, addresses, appearance, and behaviour of a child can all help to protect young people.

If you have information on child exploitation and abuse or suspect it may be happening but want to remain anonymous, you can contact Crimestoppers online or on 0800 555 111. A further source of aid is the NSPCC helpline (0808 800 500).

Tim Drew



Young people aged 16 to 20 will soon be able to qualify for a discounted bus fare with the launch of a new '16 to 20 Bus Saver' scheme developed by West Sussex County Council alongside bus operators and funded by the Department for Transport (DfT).

From Sunday 22 October this year, young people will be able to receive the new discounted bus fares if their journey starts or finishes anywhere within West Sussex. The '16 to 20 Bus Saver' means young people can benefit from reduced child rate fares offered by their local bus operator.

For more information on the new '16 to 20 Bus Saver' scheme, visit: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/16to20BusSaver](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/16to20BusSaver)

## West Downs NHW Task Force

The Annual General Meeting of the West Downs NHW Task Force truly marked the end of an era, with Alan Murrell standing down as its Chairman – a post that he had held since its creation in September 2015. Prior to that, he had been Chairman of the West Downs NHW Search Team (of which he had been a member since its creation in 2001) since 2nd July 2004.

It was ultimately Alan's responsibility to ensure that the Search Team volunteers were recruited, trained, equipped, transported to the venues and then led effectively by the Team Leaders in searches, often over difficult terrain and in adverse weather conditions. But the volunteers always knew that Alan would put them first. No wonder, therefore, that many of them achieved their 10 Year Service Award and some achieved 15 years by the year that the Search Team ceased operations. The Team clocked up 106 searches and over 11,500 hours' worth of work.

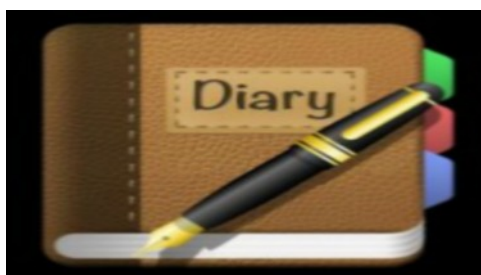
Moreover, it always proved able to field a group of volunteers at the shortest notice and was rightly honoured in November 2014, when it was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. And when Sussex Police advised in 2015 that they had no further use for its services, the decision was taken to rename the Team and to concentrate on community activities.

The demand for the Task Force's services has grown to this day, and the regard in which it is held is reflected in the fact that it has been accorded two Mayoral Receptions at Worthing Town Hall and a High Sheriff's Award in March 2019.

This tribute would not be complete without mentioning Sue, for she was unquestionably Alan's greatest support throughout until her passing in March 2021. Their commitment to their community didn't stop at the Task Force either, because they both supported their vulnerable neighbours during the pandemic and regularly maintained the two Neighbourhood Watch defibrillators in and about Worthing town centre - which Alan continues to do, in addition to conducting bike marking exercises both in Worthing and Shoreham.

Well done indeed, good and faithful servant.

Tim Drew



### Partnership Engagement

Goring Library - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November - 11:00 Hrs to 12:30 Hrs

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - 11:00 Hrs to 12:30 Hrs

Broadwater Library - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10:00 Hrs to 11:30 Hrs

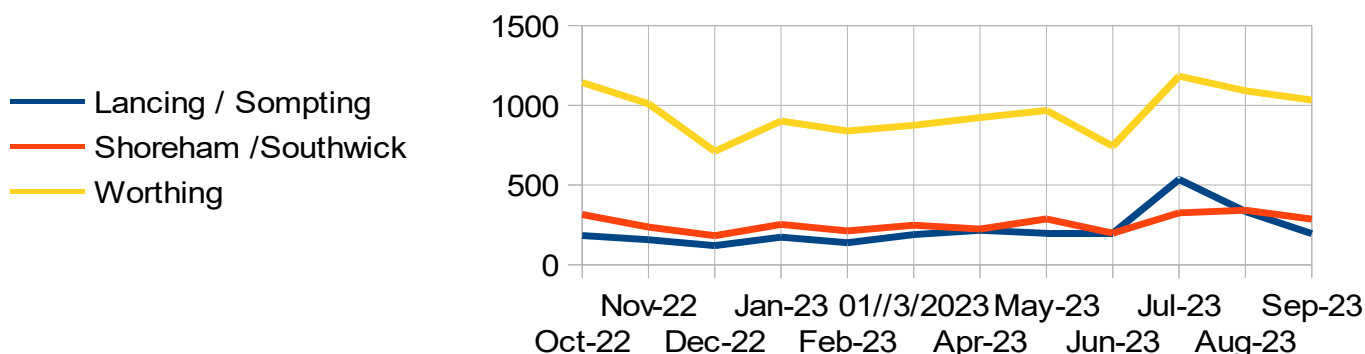
Durrington Library 85 Salvington Road - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 12:00 Hrs to 13:30 Hrs

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 12:00 Hrs to 13:30 Hrs

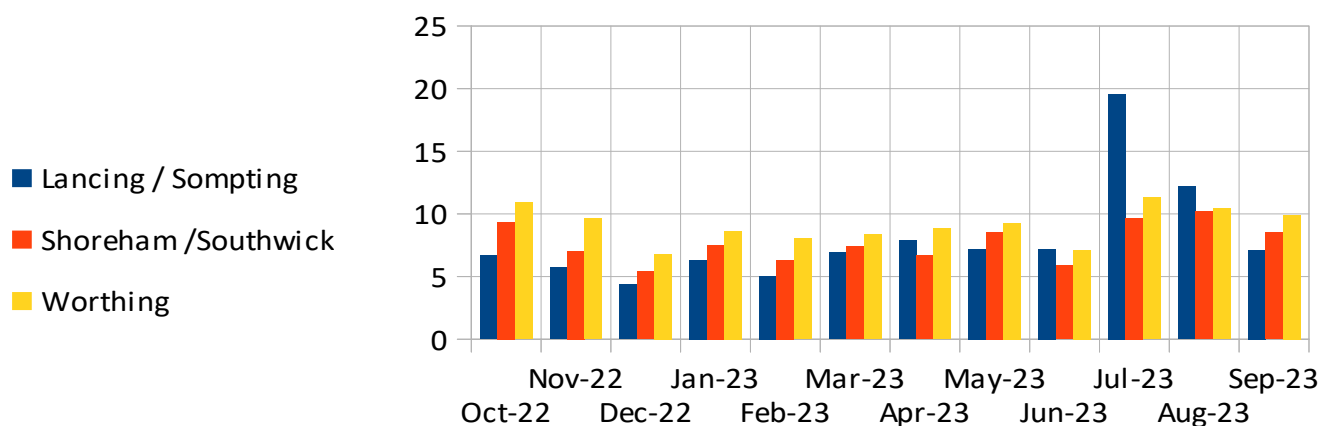
## Crime Statistics for September 2023

September 2023	Broadwater	Castle	Central	Durrington	Findon	Gaisford	Goring	Heene	Marine02	Northbrook	Offington	Salvington	Selden	Tarring	Sub Total
					BN Codes										
Antisocial Behaviour	5	6	32	3	1	5	5	10	7	7	5	10	7	7	110
Bike Theft	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	9
Burglary	2	1	5	1	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	2	2	0	19
Criminal Damage	4	4	29	11	1	5	1	7	3	5	0	6	4	6	86
Drugs	1	2	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	5	1	1	4	0	21
Other Crime	0	2	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
Other Theft	3	4	14	1	0	1	2	3	2	3	4	3	2	5	47
Weapons	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	9
Public Order	10	3	27	1	0	7	2	9	1	6	1	7	5	7	86
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
Theft Shop	14	73	27	9	0	1	1	95	4	1	4	8	1	21	259
Theft Person	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Vehicle Crime	2	1	6	0	0	6	2	2	1	2	9	4	0	3	38
Violence & Sex Offences	26	35	86	17	3	24	5	29	10	26	14	20	22	17	334
Totals	70	131	241	47	6	55	20	161	29	57	41	63	49	66	1036

### Crimes October 2022 to September 2023



### Crimes per 1000 of Population



See the latest Alerts at : [https:// worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/](https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/)