

PRESS RELEASE



HPA 004.10

22 February 2010

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO NOMINATE YOUR COMMUNITY SAFETY CHAMPION FOR A SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD AWARD

Are you a community safety champion, or do you know someone who is? If so, then why not nominate them for one of Hertfordshire Police Authority's **Safer Neighbourhood Awards 2010**.

Hertfordshire Police Authority is still looking to members of the public to nominate for one of the following four awards:

- **Neighbourhood Police Officer of the Year Award** and **Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) of the Year Award** (which recognise the nominee's personal skills, local initiatives to combat crime and outstanding working relationships with their communities)
- **Community Safety Citizen's Award** (for individuals or groups who have made exemplary contributions to the safety and/or reassurance of their local community)
- **Neighbourhood Policing Team of the Year Award** (which recognises the exceptional combined effort of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in engaging with their local communities and working together to make their areas safer and more enjoyable places for people to live or work)

Chair of the Police Authority, Stuart Nagler JP, DL said: "The Police Authority's Safer Neighbourhood Awards gives us the opportunity to say a public thank you to the exceptional people who help make Hertfordshire one of the safest counties in the country.

"We have run these awards for a number of years and the level of commitment and dedication of all our nominees never ceases to amaze me.

“All too often we hear bad news stories and all the good work done by the public goes unnoticed. I would encourage everyone to think about the people who have made a difference to their communities and nominate them for our Community Safety Citizen’s Award. Let’s really celebrate all the good there is in Hertfordshire!”

Heats for all four awards will be run throughout Hertfordshire with a winner in each category selected from the county’s 10 district and borough areas. All heat winners will be invited to attend the Safer Neighbourhood Awards ceremony in May, where the county winners will be announced.

Nomination forms and awards criteria are available to download through the Authority’s website www.hertspa.org , or nominate online at www.herts.police.uk. Alternatively, email enquiries.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk or call 01992 556600 to request a paper copy.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday 5 March 2010**.

- Ends -

For further information please contact Emily Anderson, Hertfordshire Police Authority, on 01992 555628 or email emily.anderson.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk

Editor’s Note:

Safer Neighbourhood Awards 2009 county winners’ profiles are shown below:

The **Neighbourhood Police Officer of the Year Award 2009** was presented to **PC Emily Laver**. Emily has worked as a Neighbourhood Police Officer in the **Maple Cross** and **Rickmansworth** areas for around five years.

Emily’s dedication and passion for her role has resulted in her appointment as Neighbourhood Coordinator, which requires her to coordinate public meetings and ensure PCSOs are appropriately tasked. Her strong leadership skills have been recognised and she has recently been undertaking Sergeant duties when required.

Following on-going incidents of criminal damage to a local school, Emily worked with the head teacher and local Crime Prevention Officer to install a CCTV system. This has resulted in a significant reduction in related incidents.

Emily has also been highly involved in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the Maple Cross area. In addition, she managed a local month-long operation that focused on tackling burglary and motor vehicle crime and significantly reduced offences in the area.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) of the Year 2009 is **Rob Taylor**, based in **Welwyn Garden City**. Rob spends much of his time out and about in Welwyn Village, the Ayots, Digswell, Oaklands, Mardley Heath and Woolmer Green. He has built up a strong network of contacts with local parish councils, schools, conservation groups and farmers and gamekeepers.

He established the local Rural Watch, to help reduce the levels of crime, visiting over 40 farms and businesses in the process.

Always going the extra mile to provide reassurance, Rob has made a significant contribution to the fall in crime levels, contributing to a number of detections, and has received many letters of appreciation and praise.

He engages well with all the community, including young people in the area, and has an extremely good knowledge of the rural crimes that affect local people, such as hare coursing.

Special Constable of the Year 2009 is **Special Inspector Kebba Jobe** who is in charge of Letchworth, Baldock and Royston. He has been described as “a committed member of the team with a great enthusiasm for proactive policing”.

Kebba was instrumental in establishing a Probationer Training Unit for Specials in North Herts. Before it was set up, the number of Specials was declining but the Unit turned that around and the number quickly rose from 12 to 35. It has now established itself as one of the most proactive units in the Special Constabulary.

Kebba is highly regarded by his colleagues. He leads by example, is an excellent role model and, despite his training commitments, always finds time to assist with special events and emergency call outs.

The **Community Safety Award 2009** was presented to **Sue Neville**. Sue has been involved with Neighbourhood Watch since the 1980s and currently volunteers as a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the Sherrards area of Welwyn Garden City.

Her drive and commitment means there are now 60 co-ordinators covering 49 roads actively providing Neighbourhood Watch support.

Sue spends much of her time keeping her scheme members informed and regularly distributes crime notifications and crime prevention messages and promotes awareness about home and personal safety.

She has had a very positive and wide reaching impact on the local residents, and established excellent relationships with them, giving them the reassurance and confidence to provide information and report incidents to her.

Sue has seen the changing roles of Neighbourhood Watch coordinators over recent years and has welcomed the opportunities to work more closely with Neighbourhood Police Officers and PCSOs, helping them to organise street meetings and 'meet and greet' sessions for local residents.

The **Michael Fogarty Award** was also presented in memory of the late police Inspector. The award was given to a team based in Hertsmere for their contributions towards 'Operation Reckless' which was set up to combat the increase in crime and anti-social behaviour that has been experienced on previous Halloweens. The winners of the award were: PC Susan Taylor, Anti-social Behaviour caseworker, Amy Jeffrey, Community Safety Manager for Hertsmere Borough Council, Val Kane, and teachers Christine Wainwright from Hertswood School and Barbara Crawford from Mount Grace School.

Photographs of last year's county winners are available upon request.

The names of all heat winners are as follows:

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009	
Heat winners:	
PC Nina Witteridge	Broxbourne
PC Tessa Barrow	Dacorum

PC Mark Bullen & Sgt Andrew Palfreyman	East Herts
PC Ross Leopold	Hertsmere
PC Paul Marina	North Herts
PC Andrew Yuill	St Albans
PC Hal Palmer	Stevenage
PC Iain Brunt	Watford
PC Joshua Clapham	Welwyn Hatfield

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009	
Heat winners:	
Terasa Vaux	Broxbourne
Colin Arnott	Dacorum
Neil Major	East Herts
Paul Purvis	Hertsmere
Penelope Tomsett	North Herts
Iftakhar Iqbal	St Albans
Steve Sherlock	Stevenage
Wes Gullin	Three Rivers
Dominik Tokarczyk	Watford

SPECIAL CONSTABLE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009	
Heat winners:	
Central Area	Special Sergeant Paul Shannon
Western Area	Special Sergeant Gordon Matton

COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARD 2009	
Heat winners:	
Kathi Broad	Broxbourne
David Mahon	Dacorum
Barry Welch	St Albans
Feona Farrell	Stevenage
John Sheldon	Three Rivers
PC Kim Boot & SOCO Melissa Dayton	Watford