

www.colehill.gov.uk/homewatch



**Summer 2013** 

**Issue 43** 

#### Chairman's Message

#### Hello again,

To keep our Watch alive and active, we need more volunteers. We need a secretary/minute taker, publicity officer, helpers at events, committee members and generally anyone who can spare us some time to contribute. Please contact me if you can help in ANY way.

As this is now the season of opportunist thefts - from cars, sheds, gardens and homes, I make no apology for repeating some of the sensible precautions we should be taking:

- 1. Do not leave valuables on display in an unattended car
- 2. Do not put a handbag or valuable items in the car boot after parking the car – someone could be watching for such an opportunity
- 3. Always close windows and lock the car when leaving it
- 4. Do not leave garden tools or machinery unattended in the garden
- 5. Keep the shed door locked when not in use or when it is out of your sight in the garden – why not purchase an inexpensive padlock and shed alarm if you do not already have them?
- 6. Do not leave house windows open or doors open or unlocked when not around
- 7. Do not buy from cold callers or let them into the house
- 8. Beware the uninvited caller, whether offering to do gardening, lop trees, do odd jobs, tarmac the drive, repair the roof etc. or to ask to use your phone or your toilet, check your gas or your water - whatever reason they give, do not let them in - send them on their way!

So please, heed the warnings and encourage people in your neighbourhood to follow your example and be careful and crime-free this summer.

Best wishes,



John Shave

### The Snowdonia Seven

Colehill & Stour SNT members Steve, Joe and Matt have decided to put on their running shoes in order to raise some money for Colehill and Wimborne Youth and Community Centre aka "The Reef" (www.reef4youthdorset.co.uk)

The Snowdonia Seven takes competitors to seven of the peaks in the Snowdonia National Park. To complete the challenge, teams of four must travel 22 miles, over 7 peaks with a total ascent of almost 8000ft in under 10 hours.

If you wish to sponsor the team please go to: www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/colehillsnt



Crime Prevention Event ~ Wimborne ~ Friday 21st June 11.00 - 3.00 ~ see page 3

#### Your Wimborne & Colehill Home Watch Officers:

John Shave (Chair) mobile 07802 201778 homewatchwandc@gmail.com Clir. John Burden (Vice Chair) Vacancy (Secretary) John Poat (Treasurer & Membership) 01202 849477, jpoat10694@aol.com

#### For details of how to join W&CHW see page 8

*Update* is a quarterly newsletter published by the W&CHW. The Editor welcomes contributions and letters from Watch members but reserves the right to edit as necessary or decline to publish.

#### Next copy deadline 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug.

#### Graham Mallett

(acting Editor / Advertising): tel 01202 884642 (GPM Computers) email: g@gpmcs.co.uk

#### Contact us:

*Email* g@gpmcs.co.uk or see box below to leave a message

### www.colehill.gov.uk/ homewatch

(The latest Ringmaster messages are usually posted within 24 hours of issue)

### **Report from Inspector Wayne Nock**

From a personal perspective the first quarter of 2013 has flown by, I have been in post for three months now and there have been many positives during that time.



Last month the Institute for Economics & Peace published

the UK Peace Index, a comprehensive document entitled '*Exploring the fabric of Peace in the UK from 2003 to 2012*'. They define peace as '*the absence of violence or the absence of the fear of violence*'. Every part of the UK was surveyed over the last ten years and East Dorset was ranked the **fourth most peaceful area in the UK.** I think that this is a tremendous endorsement of the hard work and effort put in by all the volunteers in whatever capacity, working to make East Dorset a better and safer place. If anyone would like to read more about the UK Peace index have a look at their website www.economicsandpeace.org

There have been some good recent initiatives locally, such as the deployment of our crime prevention car last Bank holiday weekend at all car parks, beauty spots etc across the area. Up to five hundred car owners were engaged with by Safer Neighbourhood Team officers and leaflets handed out together with advice around security/not leaving valuables on display etc.

Overall crime has continued to fall in East Dorset and there have been 400 fewer crimes recorded in the last year compared to the twelve months before that. This is good news but I am aware of the dangers of complacency and the need to remain at the 'top of our game'.

The Community Office in the Barrington Centre continues to offer advice, provide a link and contact with your local Safer Neighbourhood team (SNT) but also sells excellent security products.

Recently there were a number of daytime burglaries being committed, many around Ferndown and Wimborne. A concerted effort was made to catch those responsible involving local officers, CID, analysts and importantly our Watch volunteers. A community message was sent out with details of the burglaries and areas affected together with some car details we believed were being used. As well as providing the police with many more eyes and ears it also served to warn people to be vigilant and look out for those more vulnerable neighbours. Going back to the Community Office mentioned earlier, I am pleased to report that we have arrested and charged a suspect for these burglaries as a direct result of first class evidence obtained





from a GuardCam security camera product obtained from the Community Office. This is further proof, if it were needed, of the value of the Police working together with our communities and the sterling service given by volunteers.

There are still shed and garage breaks occurring mainly overnight and I would urge you to check that your sheds and outbuildings have good strong locks on them. There are shed alarms and other security devices that can be obtained from the Community Office. Often time and money are spent securing bicycles and post coding them etc., but they then get left in a shed with flimsy or no security! The same goes for expensive garden machinery.

With the onset of summer Dorset Police are running Operation Heathland, which together with Dorset Fire & Rescue and other partners, is aimed at preventing and responding to heath fires and Anti Social Behaviour. I would ask that, with this in mind, you report any suspicious activities seen on heath land areas to the Police via 101 or 999 if an emergency.

As some of you will know Sgt Richard Partridge left on an extended leave break at the beginning of the year and his replacement is Sgt Nikki Loftus. She is based mainly at Verwood Police Station however she will be the line manager for the Ferndown SNT team.

In conclusion, reported crime has reduced in East Dorset and as evidenced by the Peace Index it remains a safe place to live and work.

My commitment to the residents of East Dorset is to continue working in partnership to ensure that this remains the case. Have a great summer regardless of the weather.

Best regards,

Inspector Wayne Nock, East Dorset Neighbourhood Inspector

Mrs T. A. O'Hare BA, Dip LG Solicitor



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Wimborne & Colehill Home Watch

## Vacancy ~ Secretary

There is an immediate vacancy for the post of committee Secretary. The main duties are the taking of minutes at 5 meetings/year, then the distribution of these minutes by email to committee members.

The post would suit a retired person with word processing skills and access to an email account.

Apply in the first instance to the Chairman John Shave M.B.E.

Telephone or text 07802 201778, or email homewatchwandc@gmail.com

## National Neighbourhood Watch Week

June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup>

East Dorset will be having an event in

## Wimborne Square on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 11.00 – 3.00

Current plans have participation from Home Watch with the Sheducation trailer, the Police with quad bike, Dorset Fire & Rescue Service with 4x4 or similar, and Trading Standards may also have a display.

Come along and support us and meet your local crime prevention teams.

The Sheducation display will be offering discounts on the padlock alarm and the shed alarm



www.dorset.police.uk

#### SCAM BUSTERS POLICE WEBSITE

includes scams that have been an actual problem rather than more speculative messages about possible scams

www.dorset.police.uk/ default.aspx?page=4821

#### **Community Office**

The Barrington Centre, Penny's Walk, Ferndown.

Open 10am-noon (except Sun)

ferndowncommunityoffice @btconnect.com

01202 876219

#### **HW Street Signs**

We have a few plastic ones available, for use on private land/fences/etc.

Contact the editor, Graham Mallett (see p2).

#### YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

#### Wimborne Town & Leigh Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

Current SNT Priorities - you are telling us that the following issues are priorities in your area:

Wimborne Town Centre:

- 1 Shoplifting in the town centre
- 2 Introduction of system for sharing offender PCSO PC PCSO photographs within Shop Watch.
  PCSO PC PCSO Natalie Shaw lan Curtis Matt Brennan
- 3 Community Speed Watch specifically in Julians Rd, Victoria Rd & West Street.

Leigh Park:

- 1 Litter clean-up event over the summer
- 2 Environmental improvements of green areas in Leigh Gardens

#### SURGERY MEETINGS

First Tuesday of the month as below	Surgery	Methodist Church, Kings Street
Every other Monday, 10.30am	Surgery	Community Centre, Leigh Park
(from 24 June)		
2 July 2013, 10am - 12 noon	Surgery	Methodist Church, Kings Street
2 July 2013, 10am - 12 noon 6 August 2013, 10am - 12 noon	Surgery Surgery	Methodist Church, Kings Street Methodist Church, Kings Street
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Regards, Natalie, Ian and Matt.

PC 1503 Ian Curtis, PCSO 5461 Natalie Shaw, PCSO 5492 Matt Brennan

#### **Dorset Specials Go Above And Beyond**

Special Constables in Dorset clocked up an incredible 58,532 hours of police service in 2012 - helping to make Dorset even safer.

A number of special constables were thanked for their efforts when they were presented with a certificate of recognition by Police and Crime Commissioner Martyn Underhill and chief officers.

Mr Underhill said: "The Force and I created the awards to recognise the fantastic work that specials do. Their commitment is inspiring."

Chief Constable Debbie Simpson said: "The number of hours service given by special

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No Job too Small 15% Discount on the first £1000 for Members on production of current membership card constables in Dorset is incredibly humbling. Every member of the team helps to make a difference to communities in Dorset."

# Can you help?

There are a variety of things you could help with - volunteer for tasks such as: participating in promotional activities such as manning a stand, writing articles for media publication, delivering *Update*, being a Coordinator, joining the Committee ate

the Committee, etc. ...

Please email Graham: g@gpmcs.co.uk

#### YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS -

#### Colehill & Stour Safer Neighbourhood Team

Summer is finally here... thoughts turn to nice trips to our many local beauty spots for walks and picnics. And thieves' thoughts turn to the rich rewards to be had stealing from the careless people who leave themselves vulnerable to



criminal activity. Even Dorset's own Police & Crime Commissioner, Martyn Underhill, is not immune to this it seems (see local press for the beginning of April for details).

There are many simple measures you can take to protect yourself and your property.

Remove all valuables from your vehicle when you leave it.

Do not hide things in the boot or glove box.

Take removable electronic items (CD players, Sat Navs, etc) out of the vehicle.

Remove marks left on the windscreen by the suction cups of cradles and holders.

Make sure the windows are closed and the doors locked. Double check central locking has worked before walking away.

Do not leave personal correspondence or documents in your vehicle.

Do not leave house keys in your vehicle, especially if you have left any of the last mentioned items as well.

Get a 'No Valuables in this Car' leaflet (available from your SNT on request) and display it.

It is surprising how many of the victims of vehicle crime are quite local to the location of the crime. I wonder if we become complacent when we are visiting somewhere we are familiar with and don't think about security as much as if we are somewhere unknown?

If you are in a parking area and you notice someone acting in a suspicious manner, wandering around the vehicles, looking into them or trying door handles, for instance. Then please do not ignore it. Ring 101, or 999 if appropriate and let us know what is going on. We would rather check someone who is innocent than have to record a crime and have another person become a victim of crime.

PC Steve Brett, PCSO Matt Johnson & PCSO Joe Cherrett

**Surgery** - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month 2.30 - 3.30pm, Co-Op, Colehill.



If you need to contact your SNT officers use the email or call Wimborne Police Station via **101**.

#### \*\*\*\* New Opening Times \*\*\*\*

The police station at Hanham Road, Wimborne, BH21 1AS is normally open

Wednesday 9am - 5pm

Friday 9am - 12.30pm

NOTE: The reception desk may not always be staffed at these times.

#### Wimborne SNT

PC Ian Curtis PCSO Natalie Shaw PCSO Matt Brennan

wimbornetowncentresnt@

dorset.pnn.police.uk or leighparksnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk mobile: 07825 521773

#### **Colehill & Stour SNT**

PC Steve Brett PCSO Matt Johnson PCSO Joe Cherrett colehill&stoursnt@

dorset.pnn.police.uk

#### Ferndown (Stapehill) SNT

PC Stuart Belfield ferndowncentralsnt@ dorset.pnn.police.uk mobile: 07825 521752

#### EDDC www.dorsetforyou.com

Community Safety Officer: Martha Perry 01202 639032 Anti Social Behaviour Case Worker: Gavin Barnes 01202 639040



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#### Roofer prosecuted over false claims

A roofer has been prosecuted and sentenced to community work for making false claims to a resident in Verwood, Dorset, when carrying out repair work at his property. This followed an investigation by Dorset County Council trading standards service.

On 17 May 2013, Jonathan William Ball (aged 47) of Chertsey, was sentenced at Bournemouth Crown Court for three offences he committed against the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. The offences were in connection with roofing work at a bungalow in Verwood, where Ball misled the consumer by telling him the cost was discounted by £2,000 and by failing to inform him of the right to cancel the contract. Ball also later misled the consumer by writing to him falsely stating that unpaid VAT was owed.

Ball was ordered to undertake 150 hours of community work and pay a £500 contribution to the prosecution's costs. He had pleaded guilty to the three offences at an earlier hearing on 22 April at Bournemouth Crown Court.

Jonathan Ball had visited a resident in Verwood, in July 2011. Having found a damp problem in the roof of his bungalow the consumer used the 'Checkatrade' directory of traders to find a local roofing contractor and contacted a business called 'Guardian UK'. Subsequently Mr Ball visited wearing a Guardian UK t-shirt, and persuaded the consumer to pay a deposit immediately to 'secure the job' and failed to give the required notice of the consumer's right to cancel, despite Ball having been previously been advised about this requirement.

On completion of the work Ball failed to provide a previously requested breakdown of costs and gave the consumer an invoice for £5,950 in the name of "Jordan Ball Roofing". Ball claimed that this included a £2,000 discount. Subsequent examination of the work by an independent surveyor showed that the value of the work done amounted to just over £2,700 illustrating that the claim of a £2,000 discount was misleading. When the damp problem in the roof worsened the consumer wrote to complain. He received a letter on Guardian UK paper, which Ball wrote, falsely claiming that the £2,000 discount was in fact unpaid VAT and threatening that if the consumer continued with the complaint, that would become payable too.

In mitigating for Ball's actions his barrister told the court that Ball had dealt with things 'a bit too quickly' and failed to go through the steps he should have done.

Ivan Hancock, Trading Standards Service Manager for Dorset County Council said:

"This trader came into Dorset to do this work some time ago and tracing who was responsible for misleading the consumer was not straightforward. Traders who mislead Dorset consumers and fail to provide clear cancellation rights can expect trading standards to investigate them and we will continue to take formal action in appropriate cases. It is worrying that a trader behaving like this can get business through a recommendation in a trade directory as was the case here. I would urge those who require work doing on their homes to consider using a trader from the Buy with Confidence scheme, the members of which are audited and approved by Trading Standards."

### Ferndown Police Community Office

Products available do change - please check before visiting - the latest list is on :

#### www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org

The Ferndown Police Community Office The Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown

> Open every day (except Sunday) from 10.00 until 12.00

> > Telephone 01202 876219

Email: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

#### Police and partners target rogue traders

Across the UK, rogue traders and pushy doorstep sellers who use fraud to convulnerable people into paying for unnecessary or vastly overpriced work to their home were targeted in a UK wide day of action.

On 24 April 2013, Safer Neighbourhood teams across Dorset were working with Trading Standards Officers actively stopping and speaking to any tradesperson they saw working on houses or in gardens.

Crime Prevention and Design Advisor for Dorset Police, Debbie Oldfield, said:

"We supported this national day of action by working with Trading Standards to approach trades people carrying out work on homes across Dorset.

Anyone found to be conning victims into paying for unnecessary or vastly overpriced work will be dealt with accordingly.

If you feel that you have been a victim of a rogue trader please do not feel embarrassed. Contact Dorset Police or Trading Standards and report it.

By working together we can try to stop this sort of heinous crime."

This day of action was part of a week of activities led by Operation Liberal, the national intelligence unit for distraction burglary and associated travelling criminality, and Trading Standards.

ACPO lead for Operation Liberal Peter Goodman said: "Rogue traders prey on the most vulnerable in society, conning them out of vast sums of money, which in many cases are their life savings, for unnecessary and overpriced work."

Trading Standards Institute's chief executive Leon Livermore said: "This is a fantastic initiative that highlights joint working at its best, achieving excellent results in fighting these criminals who cause enormous distress and even financial ruin to so many."

If you receive an unexpected call at your door from someone offering to do work, please follow this advice :-

- Always put the chain on the door before opening it.
- Do not phone any telephone number provided by the caller, it could be bogus.
- Always check the caller's identity by phoning the number in the telephone book. Shut the door and get them to wait outside. A genuine caller will be happy to wait.
- Never agree to any work offered on the doorstep, no matter how urgent the caller says it is.
- Always get three quotes for work and if possible get recommendations from family and friends.
- Never pay cash upfront.
- A trader must provide you with cancellation rights in writing.

If you are concerned or intimidated by a caller at your door then please call Dorset Police on 999.

For further information, or to report anything suspicious, please call Dorset Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Also you can find crime prevention advice on the Dorset Police website. This easy to use portal can be accessed by visiting the homepage of the Dorset Police website www. dorset.police.uk then click on the 'Local Policing' link on the left side of the webpage, and then click on the 'Crime Prevention Portal' link.



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## SHEDUCATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Sheducation displays are manned jointly by the Police and the Watch.

Volunteers demonstrate security products and a small stock is held in the 'shed' for sale. Training is given.

Volunteers typically do an event for a couple of hours a month. If you can help please contact Brian Frecknall in the Community Office - see page 6.

## *Over 50's Information Day* The Allendale Centre, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 anytime between 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This is for advice on Crime Prevention, Personal Safety and Quality of Life issues. Various agencies will be available on the day to talk to. (The lead agency is POPP:)

## Are you over 50, live in Dorset and need some information?



Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP) provides a free and confidential information service, funded by the Dorset County Council and Dorset NHS.

A Dorset POPP Wayfinder, who works in your community, can provide information or put you in contact with specialist help on many topics including: money/ benefits, transport, learning new skills, keeping your home warm, local clubs, support for you if you are caring for someone, and much more.

They want to know what is important to you and will help you find the information you need.

#### Contact your local Wayfinder(s):

Jill Beech 07971 338473 Nick Hollingworth 07971 338624 Central contact numbers: 01202 946111 Email: wayfindersinfo@helpandcare.org.uk Info: www.dorsetforyou.com/popp

### **Harry Homewatch**

Spring had arrived and with the warm weather, gardening and other outdoor activities had come to the fore.

Harry observed that with the general euphoria comes a lack of common sense.

People arriving for a BBQ several doors away had parked their cars in an orderly way, but had left the windows down before proceeding to the rear of the premises for an afternoon of enjoyment, not a very sensible thing to do.

The same applied to neighbours who worked in their front gardens but when returning indoors for a tea break left all of the tools including mowers unattended in the front garden.

#### A lot of theft is of the opportunist type, so don't put temptation in the way of the criminal.

It is sensible to mark your valuable items. A marking kit is available via your Coordinator/Contact. This kit contains die stamps, vibro etch tool, UV and indelible pens.

Also when you are out in the back garden, the front of your property needs to be secure. Do not leave front windows or doors open when you are working at the rear of your property.

Enjoy the summer but use a little common sense and be cautious.

#### Harry

Contact John Poat, Membership Sec., tel 01202 849477, jpoat10694@aol.com

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## **Home Watch membership** it's a great time to join

Home Watch members should note that renewals (£2) for 2012-2014 were due in Sept 2012. Members received a yellow membership card, valid until 30th September 2014. Note that membership is per household, not per person.

#### If you haven't been asked for your sub please speak to your Contact NOW!

If you move house within our Home Watch area your membership can be transferred to your new address free of charge and a new card will be issued to you. Members who move out of the area will forfeit any subs paid and new occupiers will need to join up in their own names.

If you're already a member of W&CHW we'd like you to tell your friends or relatives who live locally about the many benefits. Help us to make our community safer - join today (details on our website). Your involvement makes a real difference in keeping us, our homes and our community safe.

Help fight crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities. To join contact Graham Mallett at g@gpmcs.co.uk; talk to your Safer Neighbourhood Team officers (find details on page 5); speak to your local W&CHW coordinator/contact; or leave a telephone message (see page 2).

Street Contacts are reminded to notify details of any membership changes to their Co-ordinators.

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Wimborne