

www.colehill.gov.uk/homewatch

Update

Summer 2017

Issue 60

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

A timely reminder about protecting your home while on holiday is shown on the right – thanks JP.

Another burglary reported

The Crime Prevention Team (Police & Home Watch) went door-to-door in July to remind people about home security, following another burglary in Middlehill Road (see Police Report on page 4). The good news is that an arrest has been made in regard to the previous Middlehill burglary in April.

If you can help for up to an hour a month to do these joint Police / Home Watch exercises please get in touch with me.

'Contacts' needed

We need Contacts in a number of roads, especially where there was a group running in the past. It's not much work – the Contact's duties are to:

- deliver *Update* four times a year
- collect subscriptions every 3-4 years
- join up new neighbours when houses change hands.

In one road where a group has recently restarted, two very busy people with families have joined up to cover their road – so it can be done!

Police / Home Watch Surgeries (see page 4)

There will be no Colehill surgery in August or September – the Church Centre is closed on 2nd August & 6th Sept.

Best Wishes,

Graham Mallett, Chairman (contact details on page 2).

Taking time to checkout (with thanks to ERA) **SIXTY SECONDS TO SAFETY** - **SECURITY CHECKLIST** Before you leave your home – do the 60 second countdown:

60 seconds to go ••• Do the window whip-round

Shut tight any windows, lock them and then put the key in a place you can quickly access, but others can't.

40 seconds to go ••• Sound the alarm

Did you know that only half of us with a burglar alarm actually activate it when we leave the house.....?

30 seconds to go ••• Lock the doors

42% of people admit to regularly leaving their house unlocked.

20 seconds to go ••• Spotlight on security

Before you jump in the car, give your house the once-over.

10 seconds to go ••• Last lookover

Have you padlocked items left outside?

Ten Tips to help you being burgled

1. Tell people you're going away

Make sure your happy news is spread as far and wide as possible – announcing it on Facebook is a really good way to tell everyone that your property will be empty for two weeks. That way thousands of friends and friends-of-friends will know exactly when your home is vulnerable.

2. But don't tell the neighbours

If you blab it to the neighbours – especially trusted neighbours who have a key – they'll just keep checking regularly that your home is safe and secure.

3. Don't ask anyone to take out your bins

Either leave them out for the whole time you are away, or leave them stinking out in the garden. Either way should make it abundantly clear there's no-one home.

4. Neglect the garden for a couple of weeks

The summer is ideal growing time, so make sure you leave the lawn nice and long and the weeds blooming, so they can get out of hand in your absence and indicate to everyone that you're either away or a garden slob.

5. Arrange lots of deliveries

Don't bother cancelling the paper or milk, and make sure you order plenty of things online so your letterbox fills up, and leave mail poking out to advertise your absence.

6. Close curtains or blinds

That way anyone walking past during the day will know you're not there, and can pop back when it's dark in order to burgle you.

7. Leave the lights off

Not only will you save money on electricity, but a darkened home should invite in wary burglars.

8. If you have to use a timer, make it obvious

Some people will insist on using a timer to bring the lights on just for a couple of hours in the evening. If you can't break the habit, then make sure you do it in a front room, as close as possible to the street, so everyone will be able to see that the illuminated room is still entirely empty.

9. Mark your luggage carefully

Make sure you write your home address on your luggage, so that any keen airport worker gets an opportunity to see which homes will be empty during your holiday.

10. Leave your home unsecured

If all else fails, don't lock the door, and either leave windows ajar, or leave them unlocked. If you have a burglar alarm, make sure you leave that turned off too.

If you follow these steps carefully, you should ensure you can return home to the kind of ransacked property that makes every holiday so wonderfully relaxing.

Your Wimborne & Colehill Home Watch Officers:

Graham Mallett (Chair) 01202 884642 (GPM Computers)

homewatchwandc@gmail.com

Keith Baker (Vice-Chair) keith.furzehill@gmail.com

John Poat (Treasurer) jpoat10694@aol.com

Vacancy (Secretary)

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: 20th October

Graham Mallett

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

Contact us:

Email g@gpmcs.co.uk or ring 101 and leave a message for our NPT.

www.colehill.gov.uk/

Police messages are on www.dorsetalert.co.uk

Eastern Neighbourhood Inspector's Report

I am really pleased to see many residents are making good use of the new and improved Dorset Police website. Some however are still unaware of the fantastic new features which have been added, therefore to give you a brief overview of what's available by visiting **www.dorset.police.uk** you are now able to do the following:



Submit a full crime report; report other non-crime information, hate crimes, lost property, fraud, cyber-crime or telephone scams and report concerns relating to terrorism. You can also find useful crime prevention advice and stay up to date with information appeals and the latest news from Dorset Police.

During the summer months we tend to see an increase in two main crime areas, the first being shed and garage breaks and the second being rogue trading. Generally shed and garage thieves will be keen to steal power garden tools or machinery, so please ensure these are kept securely locked away and always hidden out of sight. It is also a good idea to mark your property in some way, so that should it ever become lost or stolen, recovery and identification of the item will become much more likely. Various property marking methods can be effective, however the most basic of which would be to use a permanent marker pen to write your house number and postcode onto your tools and equipment. Should you wish to mark the property more discreetly, visit the Police Community Office in the Barrington Centre in Ferndown (see page 4) where you can obtain an "invisible ink" ultraviolet pen and discuss other property marking options should you wish.

Rogue traders do continue to be a problem in the area, targeting the most vulnerable members of our community. Rogues will cold call at addresses hoping the home owner will ask them to carry out works such as tree cutting or gutter clearing. More often than not, no written contract is provided and the tradesmen will vastly increase the verbally quoted price for their works upon completion leaving victims





in a vulnerable position. It is a legal requirement that any tradesperson provides you with a written contract and explains that there is a fourteen day cooling-off period. Our advice is to never deal with any tradesperson who visits your doorstep unsolicited. Please also keep a watch on vulnerable neighbours who may not be aware of the dangers of rogue traders. Call Dorset Police on 101 to report suspicious circumstances, or dial 999 if you believe a crime is in progress.

Another crime area which does see a notable increase this time of year is vehicle crime. Thieves may pass a vehicle and see an opportunity to make some cash by stealing and then selling items left on display. On most occasions the inconvenience of the damage caused to the vehicle is far greater than the theft itself. Don't fall victim to this type of crime and remove all of your valuables from your vehicles when leaving them unattended, ensuring it is left secure with windows and doors closed before you walk away.

Many of you will be going away this summer on your well earned holidays, so this is a good opportunity to remind you of our advice when leaving your house unoccupied:

- Cancel newspaper and milk deliveries as these are tell-tale signs a house is unoccupied.
- Ask a family member, trusted neighbour or friend to keep an eye on the house for you, and, if they can, put your rubbish bins out as normal, switch lights on and off, draw curtains, water some plants and anything that makes the property look occupied.

Kind Regards, Inspector Steve Yeoman.

www.dorsetalert.co.uk

Dorset Alert is a community messaging system operated by Dorset Police, which allows us to exchange information with you by email or phone at no cost to you. The system is designed to allow people who register, to choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime and crime prevention.

Sign up online, for email or phone messages this free service is available to everyone, not just members!

** Please make sure you '**MAP**' yourself to our Home Watch scheme.

SHEDUCATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sheducation displays are manned jointly by the Police and the Watch. Volunteers demonstrate security products. 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 4.

Dorset Driver Gold (DDG) at SafeWise Bournemouth



Driving skills and confidence sessions

helping people aged 65+ drive safely for longer. The theory session costs just £10 per person and lasts up to 3 hours. Breaks and refreshments are included – the next theory dates are listed below:

SafeWise Bournemouth - Monday 2 October - 1.30pm

SafeWise Bournemouth – Thursday 7 December – 1.30pm

The practical session costs £45 per person and lasts up to 90 minutes. Once your booking form and payment have been received you will be given details to arrange your drive directly with one of our Dorset Driver Gold Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs).

If you take up a practical and theory session the cost is just £50.

For more information please visit the Dorset Driver Gold webpage (www.safewise.org/dorset-driver-gold) or contact the DDG Administrator on ddg@safewise.org, ring or text 07713 499 777 (we will call you back) or leave a message at SafeWise head office on 01202 591330.

LifeDrive theory sessions at SafeWise B'mth

LifeDrive is designed to reduce accidents by helping younger drivers to understand why collisions happen and how to avoid them, developing their skills and experience with free post-test theory and practical sessions. This FREE scheme is open to all young people aged between 17 and 25 who live in Dorset and have passed their driving test within the past four years.

A FREE £50 Amazon voucher is given to everyone that completes the course! The next LifeDrive dates are:

Tuesday 19th September 2017

Wednesday 18th October 2017

Thursday 23rd November 2017

Thursday 7th December 2017

For more information, look at our LifeDrive page (www. safewise.org/education/life-drive)

ScootWise, Mobility Scooter Training at B'mth

'Scootwise' sessions cost just £10 to attend, next sessions are:

Wednesday 9th August - 1030hrs to 1300hrs

Friday 13th October – 1030hrs to 1300hrs

See previous issue of *Update* (page 3) or look at the ScootWise page (www.safewise.org/education/scootwise) for more information.

Dorset Police



www.dorset.police.uk

SURGERY MEETINGS

An opportunity to speak to your PCSO, and also a Home Watch rep (M/Tu/W):

First Tuesday of the month 10.30-11.15 Methodist Church, King St, Wimborne

Monthly on a Monday (check the centre's noticeboard for dates) 10.30-11.15 Community Centre, Leigh Park

First Wednesday
of the month
except AUG, SEPT, JAN
12.00-12.45
at Centre Rendezvous,
St Michael's Church
Centre, Colehill

SATURDAYS 2.30-3.30 at Costa, in The Square.

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM -

Wimborne & Colehill Neighbourhood Policing Team

Hello to Wimborne & Colehill residents

On Tuesday 11th July between the hours of 9am – 2pm a burglary occurred on Middlehill Road, Colehill, (close to the junctions with Park Homer Road). Entry was gained to the property via an insecure window using a ladder from the garage. If you saw anything suspicious around this time, please contact Dorset Police. We are urging residents to ensure windows and doors are shut and locked when leaving your property and that garages, sheds and outbuildings are securely locked and alarms used.

On Wednesday 12th July Dorset Police's No Excuse Team together with Camera Safety Teams took part in the 'Surround the Town' event, with officers enforcing the fatal five:

- 1: Excess or inappropriate speed
- 2: Failure to wear seatbelts
- 3: Driver using a hand-held phone
- 4: Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- 5: Careless and inconsiderate driving.

As part of this, Community Speedwatch teams took part by running sessions in their local areas. We conducted sessions at Leigh Road and teams were around the Square in Wimborne.

We have had numerous reports of youths climbing on the roofs of buildings in Wimborne Town centre free running/parkouring. This is incredibly dangerous not only due to the height but some older buildings have very fragile roofs which could disintegrate causing injury. The local team are investigating who is responsible for this but please ensure that if your children have this hobby that you advise them about the safety of free running/parkouring.



Sgt 760 Tim Travers



PC 2244 Matt Littlefair



PCSO 5770 Jess Allen



PCSO 8152 Scott Kishere



PCSO 6234 Grace Butler

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Community Office – Products

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 BH22 9TH

Open every day (except Sunday) from 10.00 until 12.00

Telephone 01202 876219

Email: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

Products are also available at **Sheducation** events

In the last month we have had two reports of criminal damage caused to school equipment at St Michael's Middle School, Colehill. The Police are conducting enquiries regarding this incident and request if you have any information that could assist to please contact Dorset Police quoting reference 55170083646. Please ensure that if you see anyone acting suspicious around this area call 101 or 999 if crime in progress.

We have received numerous reports regarding East Borough, Wimborne. The road is now no entry to traffic from the Walford Mill end (except buses). You can only enter the road from the Priors Walk end. Please use the road with care as motorists adjust to the change. Only local buses can enter from West Borough (Walford Mill end). Road markings will be updated by the Council as soon as practicable. NPT are working alongside the Council to target this issue.

Anti-social behaviour is still one of our main priorities for the Wimborne and Colehill NPT especially in the Leigh Park and Redcotts Recreational Ground areas. The team have been conducting increased patrols in these locations and in the last month a male has been dealt with for drug related offences. We will continue to patrol these areas but please ensure that if you see behaviour like this, please call 101 or 999 if crime in progress.

A new LGBT+ 'Silver Moments' Social Group started on 20^{th} July at CLaRC, 41-44 King Street, Wimborne from 2-4pm. Come along for coffee and a cake and meet new friends! From now on, the group will meet every last Thursday of the month.

Please get in touch if you have a 'road of concern' for speeding vehicles, for our Community Speed Watch Team to come and carry out monitoring sessions. For Colehill locations email Jessica.allen@dorset.pnn.police.uk or Wimborne locations scott.kishere@dorset.pnn.police.uk or call us on 101 where you can ask for us specifically.

We are very grateful for the hard work and time our current Community Speed Watch volunteers give us, but we are always looking for more Community Speed Watch volunteers to increase the amount of sessions we can do to tackle the problem. If this is something that interests you and you would like to work with your Neighbourhood Policing Team to reduce speeding, please get in contact with us to discuss this. Please have a look at this link for more info on Speed Watch: www.dorset.police.uk/help-advice-crime-prevention/safety-in-your-community/watch-schemes/community-speed-watch/

The next Wimborne & Colehill NPT and Home Watch drop-in surgeries will be on Tuesday 5st September 1030hrs at Wimborne Methodist Church, 2-4 King Street, Wimborne and Wednesday 4th **October** 1200hrs at St Michaels Church Centre, Colehill Lane.

The Wimborne & Colehill NPT Saturday drop-in surgeries continue on Saturdays at 2.30-3.30 at Costa, The Square, Wimborne. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like a home security check carried out by your local team, please contact us on WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.UK

You can contact Dorset Police by calling 101 for non-emergency, 999 for emergency, email 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk or online on www.dorset.police.uk by clicking 'Do It Online'.

Regards, Wimborne & Colehill NPT.

Is your child's car seat correctly fitted?

Come along to the next FREE car seat check days in Bournemouth or Poole between 10am and 3pm:

Location: Littledown Centre, BH7 7DX

Tue 5 Sep 2017 Mon 6 Nov 2017 Fri 26 Jan 2018 Wed 7 Mar 2018

Location: Poole Park, BH15 2SF

Wed 25 Oct 2017

If you need to contact your NPT officers please use email or call Wimborne Police Station via 101.

Wimborne Police Station:

The Police Station at Hanham Road, Wimborne BH21 1AS is closed to the public. To contact the Police ring 101, use the yellow phone by the front door, or email 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk. (The counter at Ferndown HQ is also closed).

Wimborne & Colehill NPT

PC Matt Littlefair PCSO Jess Allen PCSO Scott Kishere PCSO Grace Butler

WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset. PNN.Police.uk

Facebook: Wimborne Police Station

Twitter: @WimborneNPT

EDDC www.dorsetforyou.com

Community Safety Team: 01202 795000 or publichealth@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk

PACT Panels

'Partners and Communities Together'

Wimborne PACT

(Home Watch rep: John Shave) wimbornepact@gmail.com

Colehill & Stour PACT

(Home Watch rep: Graham Mallett) homewatchwandc@gmail.com

Police, Home Watch, EDDC Officer, local councillors and agencies plus voluntary organisation reps meet to address issues and agree actions to address them. If you have an issue concerning your neighbourhood you would like the Panel to address, contact your local Councillor or email your rep.





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Trading Standards News

Government Launches New Product Recall Website

Is my domestic appliance safe or has it been recalled? That's a question more at the forefront of consumers' minds than ever, and something for us all to consider, especially if responsible for the well-being of others.

The safety of domestic appliances, particularly tumble dryers, is an ongoing concern for consumers and Trading Standards Officers. While Trading Standards Officers do intervene and take formal action, where importers and manufacturers have failed in their responsibilities, the ability of anyone to effectively recall failed products is a huge problem. Who reads the recall notices?

In June a new Government website was launched to help. You can check online to see if a product has been recalled with a range of information in one place on electrical goods, cars and food for example and including recent recalls information from the Chartered Institute of Trading Standards Officers.

https://productrecall.campaign.gov.uk

Those without the internet can access the information by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer Service (03454 04 05 06), the front door for consumers to report issues to Trading Standards locally and where appropriate advice will be given to resolve disputes with items bought.

Ivan Hancock, Trading Standards Service Manager

Product Recall Website:

Too good a price to be true?

When most of us think of counterfeiting we think of clothes and dvds not electrical and cosmetic products. So what is the problem with buying fake products? Fake goods are not subject to the same stringent safety checks that genuine goods undergo. UK Border officials advise that buying counterfeit goods funds terrorism. They claim that this illegal trade profits criminals by tens of millions of pounds each year.

A recent safety survey of counterfeit iPhone chargers saw a 99% failure of basic safety checks. Chargers were found to be without fuses and unsafe labelling potentially leading to overheating and exploding.

Other counterfeit items recently found have been life jackets stuffed with packaging instead of buoyance aids, sunglasses with no UV protection causing lasting damage to the eyes and perfume found to contain cyanide and in some cases human urine and toxic levels of chemicals.

So how do you spot a fake? The chances are that if it seems to be too good to be true then it probably is, always shop from reputable a trader.

If you want to report concerns, or if you would like advice about your consumer rights, then please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

Buy With Confidence: We check traders so you don't have to. Look out for the Buy With Confidence logo.

A Cautionary Tail! Beware of Illegal Puppy Imports

Britain is known as a nation of animal lovers but our love of dogs has seen an increase in illegally imported puppies from Eastern Europe. There is a growing demand for certain breeds, and illegally imported dogs are being trafficked by criminals.

Illegal importers tend to advertise on the internet or in small newspaper adverts. The puppies are frequently supplied with incomplete, false or forged documents. They are often reared in poor conditions and are more likely to suffer from disease and behaviour problems.

Strict rules on animal imports are in place to protect the UK from rabies. This means dogs coming from Europe have to be vaccinated against rabies at a minimum age of 12 weeks and wait a further 21 days before they can enter the UK without the need for quarantine. They must also have a PET Passport which records their microchip number and vaccinations.

If a puppy is illegally imported, the new owner could face additional vet fees, quarantine costs as well as enduring the ordeal of having their dog taken away from them.

So how can you avoid buying an illegal dog?

- Get information about where the puppy has come from
- Look for Kennel Club Assured breeders and be prepared to be put on a waiting list
- If you are unable to see the puppy with its mother and litter mates, be suspicious
- Watch out for breeders selling several varieties of breeds
- Imported puppies must be at least 15 weeks old and have a valid PET Passport
- Never buy a puppy from a car park or service station

If you would like advice about your consumer rights then please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

Royal Mail

Scam mail is sent with the sole intention of obtaining money through fraud and deception. There are many types of postal scams including fake lotteries, prize draws, clairvoyant and bogus health cures.

Royal Mail has launched a new initiative to help protect consumers from scam mail. It will initially focus on customers receiving high volumes of scam mail and will block and impound scam mail at its major distribution centres before it reaches the customer's letterbox. Legitimate business and personal mail will continue to be delivered to the customer in the usual way. Using Special Delivery, Royal Mail will proactively contact those households it believes are receiving high volumes of scam mail. They will be given the telephone number for a dedicated Royal Mail helpline, email address or Freepost address to contact the Royal Mail if they have concerns or want to arrange a home visit from Royal Mail staff.

If it has happened to you contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506 who will take this situation seriously. This helpline is the first point of contact for consumers seeking advice or wishing to report a problem to Trading Standards.

Would you like to understand scams better and help people around you spot and stop scams? Become a 'Friend Against Scams' at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Dorset car trader fined for sale of unroadworthy vehicle

A car trader has been prosecuted after selling an unsafe vehicle to a consumer from a garage in East Knighton, near Wareham.

ALM Vehicle Sales Ltd, trading as 'Rainbow Car Sales', and its Director Adrian Mortiboys were sentenced on 19th June after each pleading guilty to selling an unroadworthy car contrary to the Road Traffic Act 1988 and two further offences of misdescribing the car contrary to consumer protection regulations, following an investigation by Trading Standards.

Despite having a badly corroded sub-frame and broken rear suspension coil, the Alfa Romeo 159 vehicle was misdescribed as a "lovely drive superb throughout" and a statement on the customer's invoice, "trade sale, no warranty, sold as spares and repairs", was misleading as to customers' legal rights.

The company and Director Mortiboys, who handled the sale, were each fined £1,050 and ordered to pay a pay prosecution costs totalling £3,240.

The court heard that Mortiboys agreed to sell the car to a customer who was looking for a family car at a reduced price saying there would be no warranty. After the purchase the customer became concerned about the safety of the car and submitted it for a MOT, which it failed. He then asked for a refund but this was refused.

The car was examined by an expert who said that because of extensive corrosion the car was dangerous to use and that the broken coil spring would alter the handling of the vehicle and could lead to an accident.

In sentencing the chair of the Magistrates said that he took into account the facts that there were no injuries and the buyer had received a refund.

Any business that is in doubt about their legal responsibilities in this area would be well advised to contact the Trading Standards business advice line on 01305 224702.

Consumers thinking of buying a second hand car can look for a trader who is a member of the Trading Standards' Buy With **Confidence** trader approval scheme. Find a trader in the 'Buy With Confidence' scheme or telephone the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.

Find out more at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer

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Harry Homewatch

Harry was feeling pleased with himself, not only was he going on holiday the following week, but he knew his bungalow would be looked after whilst he was away.

Take the present situation; he had informed his members that he would be away for a couple of weeks. He had activated switching his lights on at dusk to deter intruders. His mail and free papers would be collected by another member, who normally held his front door key. He also knew that other members in his local group would look out for any unusual activity around his bungalow. Something Harry would do for them in similar circumstances.

Yes, Harry was very happy to be going on holiday knowing that his property would be looked out for while he was away. He really was very pleased that he was part of the local Home Watch scheme.

Also remember the daylight hours are shortening; please check that your outside lights are functioning as they are a very good deterrent to potential anti social behaviour.

Follow Harry in further Issues of *Update*.

Harry Homewatch

Contact John Poat, jpoat10694@aol.com



CERTAINLY KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES!



Home Watch subs 2017-2020

The 'nominal' sub remains at £1 per year. However :-

As of 1st April 2016, **Existing** members renewed for £2 and received a new membership card, valid until 31st March 2020.

New members (or lapsed members) joining in the next 2 years pay £2 and receive the new card valid till 2020.

Note that membership is per household, not per person.

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 – 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 Neighbourhood Policing Team officers (details on page 5); or speak to your local W&CHW Area Coordinator or Contact.