

## Chairman's Message

*Hi everyone,*

### Neighbourhood Policing Team

Jess will be leaving us soon, Best Wishes from us all; and we welcome our new PC Julia Ratcliffe and PCSO Julia Saunders.

### Colehill Police Surgeries

Note there are no surgeries on the first Wednesday of August or September.

### New data protection rules

All new members must now fill in our new data consent form. We have been advised that existing paid-up members can continue to receive information from us without having to provide additional consent!

### Crime Prevention Team

The team has a session on average once a month, lasting about 1 hour. We knock on doors in an area that has had a crime, to check that householders are aware of a crime having taken place in their area, and to deliver information to them. If we had 2-3 more volunteers then each person would only be needed about every 2 months. Contact me!

### Future Policing - Merger Survey

Have your say on the future of policing in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset - the survey is open until **27 August 2018**. Visit [www.futurepolicing.co.uk](http://www.futurepolicing.co.uk)

### What is the proposed merger?

Devon & Cornwall Police and Dorset Police have been in a strategic alliance since 2015.

Due to their similar policing styles, values and priorities - as well as strong links with communities and the shared rural, coastal and urban geography - the two forces now work together across the three counties and are working towards an alliance approach in over 30 areas of policing.

Thanks to the hard work of officers and staff there are successful collaborations in some critical areas, such as roads policing, firearms, armed response vehicles and dog units.

Supporting functions like finance, human resources and IT are also part of the alliance.

In September 2017, the two chief constables announced plans to investigate how the alliance could grow and to consider a full merger between the two forces - to consider if a merger would be a practical progression and whether becoming one force would provide a more resilient police service to our communities.

A merged police force will differ from the alliance - the new

## SHEDUCATE!

Unfortunately at this time of year we normally see an increase in reports of burglaries to garages and sheds. We would like to remind you about **SHEDUCATION** crime prevention that you can carry out:

- S** - Secure the access to your shed or garage by locking gates and using thorny bushes next to walls and fences
- H** - Have you visibly marked the contents of your shed and garage? Make a note of serial numbers and photograph items of value - including garden ornaments
- E** - External security lights which are activated by movement are a useful deterrent
- D** - Doors of shed/garage require attention. Use strong padbars and close shackle padlocks. Up and over garage doors supplied with standard lock fitting should also be fitted with a padlock and lockable bolts. Windows should be secured, with locks or grilles
- U** - Use coach bolts or non-return screws to secure door hinges
- C** - Chain cycles, mowers, ladders, bikes, tools etc. to a strong anchorage point
- A** - Alarms for sheds and garages are available under £20 at most DIY stores; Ferndown Community Office also sell them
- T** - Together we'll crack this type of crime. Why not join Home Watch?
- E** - Exactly what insurance cover do you have? Check that your household policy covers you for theft from your garden and outbuildings

force would become one legal entity where two currently exist. There would be one chief constable with one chief officer team, one police and crime commissioner with one team of support staff and one Police and Crime Plan.

The savings as a result of creating a new force and the council tax alignment could mean up to 430 extra officers or staff for the new force area. That means more staff for everyone. The council tax alignment is a legal requirement, and subject to Government decision, but should only cost approximately £1 - £3 per month for average (Band D) residents.

A full business case will be presented to the Home Office in October with a decision in principle expected by the end of the year.

*continued on page 3*

**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: 30<sup>th</sup> 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/  
homewatch**

Police messages are on  
**www.dorsetalert.co.uk**



**Make this summer a safe one for  
your children online.**

*Summer's here: a great time for your children to enjoy more time with you. However, the long days home from school also mean that they may be spending more time online ... whether it's on social media, playing games or watching videos.*

*You want your children to be sociable and inquisitive, but above all, to be safe. How long are they spending online? What are they looking at? Who are they talking to? These days, it's just as vital to make sure children are safe online as in the street or the park. Please read these tips:*

- Talk regularly with your children about their and your online lives. Get them to show you what they're doing and try some of the technologies out for yourself. Show you understand how important technology is to them and talk about the benefits. Don't shy away from discussing responsible behaviour, and talk about bullying and adult content in the appropriate language for their age.
- Set boundaries and rules from a young age including how much time they can spend online for a healthy balance. Set an example by using your own mobile devices responsibly and at the right time.
- Talk to your friends, family and other parents about how they help their children to progress and keep safe online. Exchange tips and share experiences.
- Use parental control software and apps on computers, mobile devices and games consoles, privacy features on social networking sites, and the safety options on search engines. Opt into your ISP's family filters. But use technological controls only in conjunction with giving guidance and advice.
- Tell your children that not everybody they meet online is who they appear to be, whether on social media, chatrooms, games or YouTube. Be aware that changes in behaviour or moods may be a sign of some kind of online abuse. Find out how to use social networks' reporting buttons and show your children.
- Check lower age limits of social networking and picture sharing sites and make sure your children aren't using age-inappropriate sites, apps or games. Download apps only from recognised sources such as App Store and Google Play. Add your own email address when setting up accounts for your children.
- Keep yourself up to date with new game 'fads', especially those with negative publicity because they may be violent or leave the way open for grooming.
- Be aware of the rise in children's live streaming of themselves and the dangers associated with it. There is also a danger of children randomly being exposed to inappropriate content on video streaming sites such as YouTube.
- Talk to your children about online safety basics such as not clicking on random links or attachments, good password practice, not turning off internet security programs/apps and firewalls and not revealing personal information such as their address, current location or private images.

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## From our new PC

I am Police Officer 1757 Julia Ratcliffe. I have been a Police officer for 18 years. I have spent most of these years on front line response in East Dorset. I have also worked on a proactive unit and the Domestic Abuse Team.

I am looking forward to my new role as a Beat Officer in Wimborne and to working with the community in the Wimborne area.

*Kind regards, Julia Ratcliffe 1757*

(The other new member of the team, PCSO Julia Saunders, is on temporary assignment to Wimborne).

## The Association of Dorset Watches announces new Chairman and President

The Association of Dorset Watches provides a pan Dorset umbrella organisation, which is able to offer advice and assistance to many individual groups. The ADW is made up of a large number of community Watch schemes, including Neighbourhood and Home Watch, Rural, Farm, Horse, Speed and Harbour Watch, which form a network, together with the support of Dorset Police.

At its recent Executive meeting, Pat Halliday was elected as Chairman and John Shave appointed as President.

Contact: Chairman: 07464 857801  
Email: nhwdorset@gmail.com  
Tweet: @ADWExecutive  
Website: www.nhwdorset.org.uk

## Future Policing – Merger Survey (from page 1)

If approval is given the proposal will go to Parliament. Full permission to merge will need to be obtained by the beginning of November 2019 in order to tie in with the 2020 PCC elections.

The new force would come into effect in May 2020. If this deadline is missed, change cannot happen statutorily until 2024.

*Best Wishes,*

*Graham Mallett, Chairman (contact details – see page 2).*

## **[www.dorsetalert.co.uk](http://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.**

## SafeWise, Bournemouth

[www.safewise.org](http://www.safewise.org)

01202 591330 (9am – 4pm)

We deliver interactive & practical 'skills for life' education in realistic full size streetscapes. Our philosophy is one of 'discuss, decide and do' where visitors are actively engaged in an immersive environment rather than simply listening to advice.

We cover road safety, fire safety, water safety and home safety alongside crime prevention, what to do in an emergency, healthy living, mental wellbeing, citizenship, environmental sustainability, financial skills and much more.

*We are looking for volunteers :*

SafeWise volunteers save and change lives. They play a vital role in helping their communities stay safer and healthier. From welcoming visitors to running tours or helping with day-to-day running of centres there are lots of opportunities to get involved. From making a difference, to learning new skills and meeting like minded people, every volunteer has their own reason for getting involved.

Just a few hours a week can make a big difference. Contact us!

## A reminder – Hang up on fraudsters

We have seen an increase in fraud reports in East Dorset – the most recent being scammers claiming to be from HMRC. The caller is trying to trick the individual into transferring money to a fake bank account or sending it via courier. They use scare tactics that if you don't do this that you will be heavily charged or the Police will get involved. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. Should you ever have any concerns over this – please do not hesitate to contact Dorset Police.

Please ensure that if you receive calls like this that you never give or confirm personal information, never give your bank details or pin, never sending cash in a taxi or via courier and never send bank cards anywhere – always keep them with you. The police and your bank will never ask you for your personal bank information over the phone.

If you receive a call like this, hang up, wait for at least 5 minutes then dial 1471 and write down the telephone number. Please contact the Police immediately on 101 or 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk to report.

## A very happy anniversary!

The East Dorset & Ringwood Branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship celebrated the 70th anniversary of the NHS and the 40th anniversary of the NHSRF.

The NHSRF is for all those (and their families and friends) who have worked in any health or social care profession and aims to support its members through the provision of social, leisure, educational and welfare activities.

We meet at 10:00 am on the second Tuesday of each month at the St. Leonards Village Hall, Braeside Road, BH24 2PH.

For a friendly chat and further information please contact our Branch Secretary, Jenny, on 01202 876560 or joh2lou@talktalk.net or alternatively our Membership Secretary, Helen, on 01425 480202 or h.nield@btinternet.com



www.dorset.police.uk

## **SURGERY MEETINGS**

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

**First Tuesday**  
of the month  
10.30-11.15

**Methodist Church,  
King St, Wimborne**

**First Wednesday**  
of the month

**except Jan, AUG & SEPT**  
12.00-12.45

**at Centre Rendezvous,  
St Michael's Church  
Centre, Colehill**

**SATURDAYS 2.30-3.30**  
**on an occasional basis**  
at Costa, in The Square.

## **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**

### **Wimborne & Colehill Neighbourhood Policing Team**

*Hello to Wimborne & Colehill residents*

As we mentioned in a previous article, the Team was undergoing a period of change. We are now delighted to inform you that we have 2 additions to the team, PC Julia Ratcliffe and PCSO Julia Saunders – please say hello if you see them and introduce yourself as you are always so friendly and welcoming! We are also still being assisted by our colleagues from Corfe Mullen, PC Dave Morgan and PCSO Neal Rooke so look out for them on patrol in the Wimborne and Colehill area too!

During the Summer we see an increase in reports of thefts from vehicles parked at beauty spots such as Eye Bridge. Before leaving home, please take the time to consider what you are taking with you in your vehicles – don't bring items that you can't carry with you – be mindful that thieves watch, so don't try and hide items in your vehicle when you get there! It's advised to put a sign on display saying 'no valuables left in this vehicle'. Please ensure you take removable stereos, satnav equipment and bags with you and remember to wipe off any marks left behind on your windscreen. Ensure all windows and doors are secure before you walk away. Where possible, park your vehicle in a well-lit area with CCTV cameras. Use a visible alarming system.

With the very hot weather, in just one week officers have responded to at least 22 calls from the public about dogs being left in cars. Please take your dog with you or leave them at home, not in your vehicle. If you see a dog in a vehicle and you are concerned about its safety in this heat, please call Dorset Police on 999. #DogsDieInHotCars

#### **Could you help the police by knitting teddies for children in distress?**

Dorset Police is calling on the support of knitting enthusiasts across the county to create teddy bears for children in distress. The teddies will be carried in patrol cars and used to comfort young children who are distressed or experiencing a traumatic event.

Police Constable Conroy, of Dorset Police, said: "Sadly we regularly attend incidents where children are really having a tough time – it could be a family argument or a loved one going missing. We do our best to build relationships with young people at incidents, but something like a teddy bear can be really useful in distracting them from what is going on around them. Taking my child to hospital and him being given a small knitted toy, seeing the pleasure and enjoyment he got from this small gesture in difficult times set me to research whether we had such an initiative. Noticing that we didn't, the concept of 'Bobby Buddies' was born.

I hope that this initiative will enable us to work closely with the volunteers who knit the buddies. Our aim is to encourage positive interaction with young people, assisting



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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

**\*NOTE - PHONE NUMBER has reverted  
to the old number - 01202 876219\***

Email: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

Products are also available at **Sheduction** events



them at difficult times, or just helping them realise that police officers are there to help them and are approachable, and not people to be scared of.

It also shows in this small gesture that so much of the work we do cannot be done without the assistance of our community. Providing the name of the person who knitted the buddy, along with the officer who gifted it, will hopefully show that working together we can make real positive changes."

For more information and to download the knitting pattern, visit [www.dorset.police.uk/Buddies](http://www.dorset.police.uk/Buddies) or contact your local team on 101 or [WimborneColehill-NPT@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WimborneColehill-NPT@dorset.pnn.police.uk) – completed teddies can be handed in at Bournemouth, Poole, Weymouth and Blandford Police Station counters, or the Ferndown Community Office – or contact your local team if you are unable to get to a station.

## Holidays!

It's the time of year that those of us that are lucky enough will be going on holiday and leaving our properties unattended. We are urging residents to not only follow your 'Packing Checklist' but also your 'Leaving Property Checklist'!

- Ensure all windows and doors are locked and keys are not left in the lock on the inside of any other windows or doors
- If you have a burglar alarm – please use it! Use light timer switches
- Ensure all your outbuildings are securely locked and the contents are secured by chaining to a strong anchorage point
- Make sure your bins are put away and cannot be used as a way over a fence or gate and ensure your gates are secure with appropriate locks
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries and anything else you get regularly delivered
- Ask a trusted neighbour or friend to keep an eye on your property and ask if they can park a vehicle on your drive or on the road outside to make it appear that someone is home
- Don't leave items of value on display. Mark all your valuables such as jewellery, electronics and tools with your name/postcode and register them online on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Ensure your buildings and contents insurance is fully up to date
- Phone your bank to inform them you are going away with location and dates. They can hopefully make a note of this should any other activity on the account occur they can check this with you
- Don't leave an answerphone message saying you are away – if possible have the calls re-directed
- DO NOT broadcast on social media that you are going on holiday or that you are currently on holiday – telling potential burglars that your property is empty!
- If flying, only show your address on luggage labels on the return journey.

Should you have any concerns about this or would like further advice, please contact the team via 101.

We are continuing to do great work with the **Crime Prevention Team** from Home Watch. This involves the Police Community Support Officer conducting high visibility patrol with the Home Watch Crime Prevention Team in areas of concern. We target areas that have been victim of incidents such as burglary, theft, rogue traders etc and speak with residents in that area raising awareness, recruiting to Home Watch and giving crime prevention advice.

As many of you will have seen the local **Community Speed Watch** team have carried out a number of operations at locations that you have raised as a concern. This valuable work relies on a dedicated team of willing volunteers and we are very grateful for their hard work and commitment, however we would like to increase the number of our volunteers.

If you would like to take an active part in keeping your community safe, please contact us via 101 or email [WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk](mailto:WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk)

Regards, Wimborne & Colehill NPT.

**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](mailto:101@dorset.pnn.police.uk).  
(The counter at Ferndown HQ is also closed).

## Wimborne & Colehill NPT

**PC Julia Ratcliffe**

**PCSO Julia Saunders**

[WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk](mailto:WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk)

Facebook: Wimborne Police Station

Twitter: @WimborneNPT

## EDDC [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

Community Safety Team:  
01202 795000 or [publichealth@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk)

## PACT Panels

**'Partners and Communities Together'**

Wimborne PACT

(Home Watch rep: John Shave)

[wimbornepact@gmail.com](mailto:wimbornepact@gmail.com)

Colehill & Stour PACT

(Home Watch rep: Graham Mallett)

[homewatchwandc@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Scams through the ages

Citizens Advice have identified four common groups of people, each of whom are more likely to be affected by scams in different ways.

Although 'young people' aged 18 to 24 don't represent the largest group of people falling victim to scams, numbers of scam victims in this group is rising. In particular, young people are a growing proportion of victims of online and identity fraud. Having grown up with technology they are often confident in their ability when using the internet. This can lead to them feeling that they are unlikely to fall for internet scams, making them complacent and increasingly vulnerable. Research shows that over half of young people are unlikely to report scams.

'Life established' people in their 40s to 60s are the group most affected by scams. Part of this is due to the fact that they are most likely to report scams, but also because certain demographics within this group are targeted due to their circumstances. For example, this group tends to be more settled and has access to financial assets. This makes them more likely to be targets of scams, such as pension scams, dating scams and property scams.

'Older people', over 70s, are often targeted by scammers. Research has found that 75 is the average age of reported scam victims and those over 70 suffer the highest detriment. Older people tend to fall victim most to phone and mail scams, and figures from National Trading Standards show that older people are deliberately targeted more than other demographics. This group also sees the largest proportion of people who are recurring victims of scams.

People who are 'socially isolated' can be the hardest to reach and often aren't able to access the same support that others can. While this group makes up a smaller number of cases of reported scams they often have high levels of detriment, not just in the amount of money lost, but the overall impact on health and wellbeing.

By better understanding different groups Citizens Advice hope to reach more people and encourage reporting. If you've lost money because of scams report it to Action Fraud, by phone 0300 123 2040, or online [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

## Martin Lewis' Six scam self-defence rules

1. Never give personal details if they text or email. The classic scam is fraudsters sending messages asking for your details to break into your accounts, claiming to be from a bank, insurer, HMRC, me, or even the police. This falls into two camps.

a) Phishing (a more geek spelling of fishing). This is a scam email, purporting to be from a company it hopes you have a connection with e.g. your bank saying something like "your bank security is broken, click here" or "we need your help to retrieve funds."

It'll then take you through to a professional-looking website – often a mirror image of the real thing, and it'll ask you to put your password or personal details in.

Never, ever, EVER click a link in an unexpected email or open an attachment unless you're 100% sure of its contents (and sadly any 'tax rebate' email from HMRC is a fake, it never emails these).

b) Smishing (ie SMS-phishing). Like phishing but by text not email. Yet what's tricky here is deciding whether it is just spam or a scam. If it is spam – in other words a legit company sending sales messages, it should allow you to text back to stop future messages. More help on stopping spam texts, phone calls and door knockers in the stop spam guide.

Yet if it's a scammer, texting back isn't a good idea as you're just validating that it has texted a legit phone number so you could get more – and of course never call them. If unsure play safe and delete it.

2. Beware fake dialling tones when you call them back. Vishing (voice phishing over the phone) is a growing issue. Callers can pretend to be from banks, insurers, police, HMRC, utility provider and more, all asking for passwords or personal details. Don't give it. Legit companies won't ever ask.

Ironically they could even purport to be scam protection calls with patter like "there are lots of untrustworthy people out there, we need to call to protect you, it's a horrid world."

So if it's an unexpected call ALWAYS say you'll call them back. If it is legit it won't mind. And don't call the number it gave you – go and find that institution's official number.

Even that may not be enough protection though. An increasingly common trick is where they call, and tell you to call back. However, when you hang up they don't, and instead just play a dial tone, tricking you into thinking it's a new call, but they answer.

If you've any suspicions, then as well as finding the right number to call back, take one of three precautions...

- Call from another phone
- If using the same phone, call a friend first, if 'the bank' answers you know they've spoofed a dial tone
- Wait a decent time before calling.

3. Know the scammers' tells. In poker a 'tell' is how you judge when someone is bluffing. Similar tells apply to cold calls from scammers, including...

- Anyone rushing you. You never need to make a decision straight away (even if not a scam at best it's usually dodgy sales patter)
- Anyone asking you to pay in an unusual way (such as vouchers)
- Poor grammar or dodgy spelling in emails, or starting emails with "dear sir or madam"
- If someone you've never met asks you to send money
- Job adverts that ask for money in advance
- Unsolicited calls to help you fix your computer (genuine computer firms don't do that) and generally I'm not in favour of any cold calling anyway, even if legit
- Facebook ads for crypto currencies. It has banned those ads, so if they get through they're not legit.



4. Don't fall for fake deals on WhatsApp & Facebook and other social media. Many bogus offers pop up in people's feeds and messages, eg, Alton Towers and Ryanair giving away free tickets on WhatsApp.

The key here is to know the source. Is the person giving you the information trustworthy, and are you certain it really is that person. Go to where you know it's legit and look for the same offer.

Yet even if you think you're reading an article from The Times, The Mirror or even MoneySavingExpert – think about whether you went direct or clicked a link. If the latter it may be a spoof from a clicked link in an email which looks similar.

Remember on a website a link to www.????? doesn't always take you where you think it may – hover over the link with the mouse and check the address it links to at the bottom of your browser window. In other words even if it looks legit, never just click without separately checking.

And as you may know I'm in the midst of a campaigning lawsuit against Facebook which has published over 1,000 scam ads with my pic in. None one of these is genuine. I've said it before and I'll say it again I DON'T DO ADS, so any with me in is a lie.

5. Ensure you have antivirus software installed on your computer. You can get free software which, while not as fully featured as paid-for programs, still keeps on top of threats.

There's a full rundown on all of these in our free anti-virus software guide (search 'antivirus' on www.moneysavingexpert.com). Do remember to update these regularly. And ensure your computer firewall settings are on and set to a high-enough security level.

6. The safest way to pay for anything is via credit or debit card. Credit cards are covered by section 75 protection which means if goods cost £100 to £30,000 then by law the credit card is jointly responsible. All other plastic transactions are covered by Visa, MasterCard and Amex's chargeback protection rules. This way if you pay and it's a scam you have a route to try and get your money back through the card firm.

Pay by bank transfer, cash, cheque, or vouchers and there's little protection.

[www.MoneySavingExpert.com](http://www.MoneySavingExpert.com)

## Pinpoint Sewing & Alterations - Colehill



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## How can a Wayfinder help you?

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- Facing discrimination
- Being part of your community
- Making a positive contribution
- Having choice and control
- Staying fit and healthy
- Considering your housing options



Contact us for FREE, impartial and confidential information

Contact your local Wayfinder  
**Nick Hollingworth**  
07971 338624

Central Contact Number: 01202 946111  
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## Harry Homewatch

I start with an apology, seven weeks ago I installed another water butt in my garden. Since then it hasn't rained.... sorry about that!

Joking apart this spell of very hot weather has led to residents leaving their windows open often when they are out or even overnight. Be aware this invites a break-in especially if you do it on a regular routine basis.

Countryside fires are the other problem. Extremely easy to start accidentally; a cigarette dropped onto the grass verge, a car parked with the very hot catalytic converter over dry foliage, glass containers acting as lenses can also be a hazard. If your garden is near to open fields or woodland be sure your barbecue is not spreading hot ash into the air, especially on windy days.

So be aware when near to open countryside, a brush fire can soon get out of hand and can cause great and costly damage.

For those of you that do not have children, be aware the school summer holidays have started....

Inevitably there will be an increase in antisocial behaviour over the next few weeks.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

*Harry Homewatch*

Contact John Poat, [jpoat10694@aol.com](mailto:jpoat10694@aol.com)

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IF YOU DONT NEED MY SERVICES YOU ALMOST CERTAINLY KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOES!

## Home Watch subs 2018-2020

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

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

**New** members (or lapsed members) joining before March 2019 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](mailto: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.