



Spring 2016

Issue 54

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

SUBS due now!

Subs are due for renewal when you receive this '*Update*'. Only £2 for FOUR years! Please assist your Contact by paying promptly. (Contacts - you should have received a note explaining how to return subs money in April - please speak to your Coordinator if not).

As your Home Watch is run entirely by volunteers, we decided to keep the frequency of subs collection to a minimum as it is quite a lot of work collecting 1500 subs! However for our budget to work with the reduced annual income we need everyone to renew their sub, please.

I'd like to thank our advertisers for their support too. Another new advertiser, P.Decor8, appears on page 7.

Home Watch areas in Wimborne

The rearrangement of areas is partly in place, but we still need Coordinators for the two smallest areas:

- Culverhayes to top of E./W. Borough (4 groups)
- Leigh Road: Lewens La to Brookside Manor (4/5 groups)

If you live in one of the areas and don't want your Home Watch group to lapse.... *please come forward to be a Coordinator! Contact me for more details.*

Thank you to Tim Lawrence and Bryan Stares for volunteering to do the 'Allenview' and 'West' areas respectively.

Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network

The national organisation is going through some changes to make it more relevant to local Force areas. There is a lot of useful information at http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/ knowledge-base.

Police Surgeries

These are still poorly attended, but will continue for the time being. Since the Colehill one moved to St Michael's Church Centre, we now have leaflets and some security products available for sale at both Wimborne and Colehill. See page 4.

Cyber Crime

Cyber crime continues to be a major problem in our area. Dorset Police have a useful page on their website that 'signposts' you to the most relevant websites -

http://cybersafe.dorset.police.uk

Best wishes, Graham Mallett, Chairman (Contact details on page 2)

Changes to our Constitution

As this has not been revised since 2002 we are submitting some revisions, to be voted on at the AGM. The draft document showing the proposed alterations is on our website.

If you require a paper copy please contact me on 01202 884642 (daytime). *Chairman.*

You are invited to our Annual Home Watch Meeting

incorporating our AGM

Wednesday 11th May at 7pm

Teas at 6.45pm Village Green Café, Allendale Centre

Agenda

Introduction

Chairman's Report Matters Arising from May 2015 AGM Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts Appointment of Independent Examiner Ratification of changes to the Constitution 2015-16 Funding Election of Treasurer Policing Update plus Q&A

All Welcome

Have you linked ('mapped') your registration on Dorset Alert to W&CHW yet? See page 3.

Your Wimborne & Colehill Home Watch Officers:

Graham Mallett (Chair)

01202 884642 (GPM Computers) homewatchwandc@gmail.com

Keith Baker (Treasurer & V.Chair) keith.furzehill@gmail.com

Joy Ashmore (Secretary)

joykathleen1@gmail.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: 14th May

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 now on www.dorsetalert.co.uk

East Dorset Neighbourhood Inspector's Report

Hello,

So far 2016 has been very wet but not as cold as usual, this has resulted in an unfortunate rise in road traffic collisions, so please be careful when driving in these wet conditions. The roadworks on the A338 continue to impact the whole area and as I'm sure you've seen from the local press, one accident brings everything to a stop! It also makes responding to any emergency for the blue light services even more difficult.



To keep you updated on local policing I can reassure you that although as you would have read in the local press and seen the For Sale sign outside Ferndown Police Station, the officers and staff covering East Dorset continue to operate from Ferndown and will do for some time to come. Additionally we have our Neighbourhood Policing Teams working from Ferndown, Wimborne and Verwood Police Stations and they focus on their local communities, ensuring there is engagement across the board from street meetings to online forums.

Whilst I'm pleased to report that dwelling burglaries remain low in number, there has been a rise in garage and shed burglaries and extra police patrols are targeting the locations and times these are occurring. I would again urge you to ensure you have good locks and check the condition of them. If you visit the Community Office within the Barrington Centre they can show you some simple, cheap but effective alarms as well as lots of other useful items designed to protect you & your property.

Cyber-attacks & computer related crime, are becoming common and can be not only costly, but at best frustrating, and at worse destructive. I take this opportunity to list some of the useful websites recommended for you to learn about staying safe whilst online.

https://www.getsafeonline.org http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise https://en-gb.facebook.com/safety https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk http://www.saferinternet.org.uk

There are many similar helpful sites but please always remember to :

- Keep it simple use passwords,
- Make sure your spyware and virus checker are up to date,
- Back up those precious photos and records regularly to a drive away from your main system. At least that way if they do jam your machine, you'll have a safe backup.
- Think if you click to open that attachment, are you sure it is safe? Is it definitely from your friend or a safe site; *if in doubt, don't click*.
- Why am I being asked to verify card details? I can do that from the website

Messages for Home Watch

(voicemail number 94167 has closed)

Please ring 101 and leave a message with our NPT, or ask a friend to email us!

Crimestoppers

.

You can call 'Crimestoppers' anonymously with information about offenders who have committed crimes on Freephone 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org



itself. And if you really have inherited £50 million pounds, why would I have to pay a handling fee, often written in poor English from an unknown address.

Think before you click.

Whilst the Police Service escaped further cuts in the recent review, Dorset Police will continue to ensure that we do the most we can with the resources we have. At a local level I am doing the same and will continue to put community policing at the centre of all we do. I know that when you dial 999 you expect and deserve a quick and effective response and that remains the case here within East Dorset. We continue to work with partners to deliver the best possible service for the communities within East Dorset.

An example of where this has been successful is that during 2015 great strides have been taken in working with the rural communities preventing and reducing rural crime and working with and understanding the specific needs of rural businesses and residents. The rural team based at Verwood consists of Police Officers, PCSOs and Special Constables. The team have been very busy in the last year and have had successes in preventing and catching poachers, reducing rural burglaries and in partnership with the NFU providing additional security to rural businesses.

So as Spring approaches, I want you to know that the Police Service within East Dorset continues to work hard to keep all who live work and visit in East Dorset safe. As I've said many times before, we couldn't do any of this without your help, so thank you for your continued support.

Inspector Wayne Nock.

Points of interest from the Association of Dorset Watches (ADW)

The ADW has commissioned a new custom built website (www.nhwdorset.org.uk), which will be viewable from conventional devices or smartphones. Implementation is planned for this Summer.

The national Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (NHWN) has copyrighted a new modernised Neighbourhood Watch logo which will act as an "umbrella" covering all types of approved Watch groups including Home Watch.



Usage will be only be allowable for vetted and approved Watch groups and other organisations such as printers. Use of existing logos is not affected so may continue. Details of the vetting and approval process are due to be produced early in the second quarter.

At the time of going to print, 2016/17 Public Liability Insurance for specified Watch activities by approved Watch groups is still being negotiated.

In advance of the Dorset PCC election on 5th May, ADW will be posing questions to candidates on Watch related matters. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any suggestions for topics. We plan to circulate the responses to members, hopefully via Dorset Alert.

John Shave, ADW Chair: nhwdorset@gmail.com, @ADWChair, 07464 857801

Keys ! - A warning from a Contact

Keys with neighbours? If your neighbour labels your keys with your name/address, then if they get broken into, so do you.....

So mark them in some coded way that doesn't mean anything to a thief! Ditto with alarm codes.

On a related theme, a car with the engine running to defrost the windows was stolen off a driveway while the owner went back inside their house. Please do not leave vehicles unlocked and unattended - it's too tempting for an opportunistic thief. You'll also lose all the other keys on the same keyring....

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. Details of how to do this can be found in 'Latest Messages' on our website or on the ADW website www.nhwdorset.org.uk **

Keyholder Scheme

You can now register for free, online at www.dorset.police.uk/default.aspx?page=1343 (or search 'keyholder' at www.dorset.police.uk) or ring 01202 226731 - but please look at the website first to ensure you have the correct information ready.

It is worth registering, whether you have an alarm or not, so that emergency services know who to contact in the event of a problem.



www.dorset.police.uk

SURGERY **MEETINGS**

An opportunity to speak to your PCSO, and also a Home Watch representative:

First Tuesday of the month 10.30-11.15 Methodist Church, **King Street**

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

First Wednesday of the month NOW 11.45-12.30 at Centre Rendezvous, St Michael's Church Centre, Colehill

Wimborne & Colehill Neighbourhood Policing Team

Hello to you all and welcome to the Wimborne & Colehill Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) report.

We are pleased to say that shoplifting across the area is very low at this time as is alcohol related incidents. Unfortunately we can't



PC lan Curtis

PCSO Jess Ousey

PCSO

PCSO Huw Evans Roz Fricker

say the same about shed and outbuilding breaks which are sadly on the rise especially in the Corfe Mullen and Sturminster Marshall areas. Prevention is very important and we will reiterate some advice given in the last newsletter. Alarms, lighting and secure doors and windows are the most important things to stop or deter people getting into sheds and garages. Numerous types of alarms are available but a £10 battery powered shed alarm is a strong deterrent in itself. Please also consider making sure doors and windows are strong and locked all the time. External and internal automatic lights are also great as they both give you safety and convenience whilst also deterring persons. Other practical measures would be to chain items such as chainsaws or pedal cycles together or better yet to a hard point within the building. All these measures together slow down an offender and significantly reduce the risk of them attempting the property.

Many items are available from the Ferndown Community Office, see below.

There have also been several incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in the vicinity of Leigh Park, specifically Leigh Gardens and Tapper Court. There has been some damage to vehicles, stones and eggs thrown at windows and a bin possibly set alight. Officers have spoken to local named youths to give advice and things appear to have settled down. If any residents have queries, concerns or information then please feel free to contact the Neighbourhood Policing Team, details below.

We have had two or three sightings of a suspicious small grey van in Colehill, where persons inside have been offering to sell fish. The home owners have suggested that the two males in the van had a tennis ball in hand and were attending addresses where dogs are present possibly with the intention to steal. There have been no crimes but do please look out for this type of incident.

To contact us you can phone 101 (non-emergency); or see the panel on the right for Facebook / Twitter / New Email details. The emergency phone number is still 999. Regards,

PC Ian Curtis, PCSO Jess Ousey, PCSO Huw Evans, PCSO Roz Fricker.



No Job too Small • *email: k.n@wrsl.uk* 15% Discount on the first £1000 for Members on production of current membership card

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

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

Telephone 01202 876219

Email: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

Drones are the future for policing says PCC

Drones could revolutionise policing in the same way that the introduction of police radios did in the 1960s, according to Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner who believes drones have a key role to play in the fight against crime and protecting the public.

The county's police force is one of the few that already uses drones, sharing four drones with neighbouring Devon & Cornwall in an arrangement that has been fully licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

They are used to help officers in their investigations by taking aerial photographs, recording videos and maps. The two forces have also used them to take photographs at crime scenes and road accidents.

Dorset's PCC now wants to see more UAVs - unmanned aerial vehicles - used by the police. He said: "Policing needs to be at the forefront of technology. Portable two way radios transformed policing in the 1960s - I believe drones have the capability to revolutionise the way we police in this country in a similar way, whilst saving a substantial amount of public money. Whether it is helping search for a missing person, recording evidence for later use in a criminal investigation or giving police officers a unique bird's eye view of a particular situation, the potential UAVs have for helping forces is huge."

The Surveillance Camera Commissioner Tony Porter visited Dorset to look at a demonstration of the drones in use. The Strategic Alliance of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Police are now working with Mr Porter's office to achieve Third Party Certification regarding the use of drones.

Mr Underhill believes it this openness and transparency around UAVs that should reassure the public about their use. He added: "I know there will be some people who feel uneasy about police using this equipment but in my view, the law abiding public have nothing to fear. Providing strong governance is in place, there is no reason why police drones can't become as familiar a sight as patrol cars, a police helicopter or an officer on the beat."

The PCC said UAVs were not being seen as a replacement to police helicopters, but rather an additional tool in the police toolbox.

He said: "There are exciting opportunities for the future use of police drones. We are looking at the potential to use them to 3D map serious road collisions. This could be beneficial in speeding up the safe opening of main arterial routes which often have to be closed for hours following a serious accident. And they could also be used to fly automated set routes, for example in a crime hotspot area. In an era when police funding is so challenging, all forces need to explore the potential an asset like UAVs would give them. I believe, once we demonstrate further the benefits of UAVs, that the public will be fully behind their use in helping keeping them safe."

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 your local Police ring 101 or use the yellow phone by the front door. (The Counter at Ferndown HQ is also closed).

Wimborne & Colehill NPT

PC Ian Curtis PCSO Jess Ousey PCSO Huw Evans PCSO Roz Fricker

NEW EMAIL:-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)

Colehill & Stour PACT

(Home Watch rep: Graham Mallett)

Police, Home Watch, EDDC Officer, local councillors and agencies plus voluntary organisation reps meet to address issues and agree actions to address them.





Trading Standards News

Tell us about Illegal Tobacco

Anyone selling illegal tobacco commits a criminal offence. The seller can face up to 10 years in prison and an unlimited fine. Why does it carry such a heavy penalty? Sold at pocket money prices, cheap tobacco makes it all too easy for our children to start smoking. The sale helps fund organised crime and those selling illegal tobacco may also be selling other illegal goods and introducing more crime into your local community.

So what is the law on this? It is not illegal for you to go abroad and buy cheap cigarettes for your own use but bringing them back and selling them is.

If tobacco doesn't come through legal supply chains it could very easily be a counterfeit product. The manufacture of counterfeit tobacco isn't regulated so you can't tell where it comes from or what it is made out of. Where counterfeit tobacco has been tested and has failed those safety tests it has been found to contain asbestos, animal faeces and glass. Since 2011 cigarettes must also be able to self extinguish themselves too, but illegal tobacco is more likely to cause fatal blazes as they may not self extinguish.

How to spot illegal tobacco:

- Often tastes different;
- Can be sold in boxes with poor print quality and have spelling mistakes;



- Might be sold in packets without required safety warnings;
- Sold in packaging with a handmade look and feel.

Trading standards are committed to disrupting the sale of illegal tobacco and you can help us. If you think you have information about someone selling illegal tobacco, or know a place where it is sold, then please help us. Any information no matter how small may be the piece we need. You can tell us anonymously on-line at **www.stop-illegal-tobacco.co.uk** or by phoning the illegal tobacco hotline number on 0300 999 0000.

Drainage company and subcontractor prosecuted for misleading claims

Plumbers 24/7 Ltd was sentenced at Bournemouth Crown Court on 7th January, following a prosecution by Dorset County Council's trading standards service.

They were ordered to pay $\pm 15,000$ for misleading an older customer about the price of drainage work and the fact that they claimed work was required when it was not.

The company and one of its subcontractors, Russell Stephen Lane, mislead Mrs Binks, 72 years old, about drainage work needed at her home in Kington Magna, North Dorset.

Mrs Binks contacted the company, finding them in the 'Yellow Pages' after she discovered a blocked drain. Two men arrived in a van and had a quick look but it was too dark to carry on, so they arranged to return the following day. One of these men was Mr Lane.

The court heard how the following morning they produced some paperwork which they initially asked Mrs Binks to

sign. It had no prices on and they told her that if she didn't sign they wouldn't be able to start. The men then carried out some work including unblocking the drain and lining some of the pipes in the drainage system.

The final bill was $\pounds 7,800$. They had been there for approximately 5 hours. Mrs Binks felt obliged to pay there and then as she felt intimidated and threatened. She also stated that just after she had paid, she witnessed the two men "laughing and doing a little dance" in the garden.

Trading Standards had the works examined by an expert, who estimated that $\pounds 2,083$ would have been a reasonable charge and noted that parts of the work were unnecessary.

The jury agreed with Trading Standards that the price charged by Mr Lane was so significantly above what a reasonable charge would have been, that the demand to pay that amount could only have been made dishonestly.

Mr Lane's sentencing was adjourned.

In mitigation counsel for Plumbers 24/7 Ltd, Mr Raudnitz, acknowledged that while the company could not know exactly what had happened at the property their due diligence had fallen short of what was necessary and that the company itself had not acted dishonestly. The trial judge, Judge Johnson, agreed that these circumstances were at the lower end of culpability for the company and so sentenced it to a fine of £1000 per offence but also ordered it to pay £5000 to the victim and £8000 in costs to the County Council.

Richard Herringshaw, Principal Trading Standards Officer, said:

"I am pleased with this result especially for the victim Mrs Binks. It takes courage to make a statement and give evidence at court. Without her evidence we would not have been able to take this prosecution and the company and Mr Lane would have simply got away with it.

This will have been a costly episode for the company and will hopefully ensure that it takes more care, especially with the pricing of the work it carries out.

Anyone who suspects they may have been scammed in a similar way should contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06. This is the first point of contact for any consumer wishing to complain about a business or wanting to know what their rights are. All complaints from Dorset residents are assessed by the trading standards service to see if they should be investigated further."

The council's Cabinet member for economy and growth, Cllr Colin Jamieson, added:

"Traders who mislead vulnerable individuals and families, and charge them excessive amounts are deplorable. Our trading standards service makes investigating these cases a priority.

We recognise that selecting a business you can rely on to carry out essential repairs in and around the home is often a concern for Dorset residents. To help you select a reliable business, the Trading Standards Service operates the "Buy With Confidence" approved trader scheme. I would encourage consumers to consider using this scheme if they are not already aware of it."

More information can be found at www.buywithconfidence. gov.uk . For consumers without internet access, Citizens Advice can also help find a trader who is a member of the trading standards-approved 'Buy with Confidence' scheme.

Trading Standards Warn of Blue-Badge Copycat Websites

Trading Standards Officers are warning Dorset residents about copycat websites dealing with applications and renewals of Blue Badge disabled parking permits.

The unregulated websites may appear to offer a quick and easy application but in fact charge at least £49 for minimal help in completing the application form, and they have no authority to issue a Blue Badge.

Dorset residents who use these sites will still have to submit their applications to Dorset County Council and pay a further $\pounds 10$ to cover the genuine application fee.

These copycat websites are in no way affiliated to the Blue Badge scheme and many ask for personal information such as bank details and National Insurance numbers, which could be used for further fraud.

Complaints are being received by the County Council in increasing numbers from residents who have unnecessarily paid excessive amounts to apply for a Blue Badge.

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

"Steer clear of these rip-off sites. Many are based overseas so are difficult to tackle when problems arise. The official Blue Badge costs ± 10 and you can find more information on the eligibility requirements and how to apply for or to renew a Blue Badge through the Council's website or through the Government's official gov.uk pages.

There are all sorts of scams based on applications for official documents we need so all consumers need to stay

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

alert to this risk. Best advice if you don't know the reliable website you need already is to use the official 'gov.uk' websites for any government services such as renewing driving licences, passports or European Health Insurance Cards, rather than rely on search engines that often display copycat sites."

To report a problem with a copycat website contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06. This is the first point of contact for consumer advice or to report any consumer problem to Trading Standards.

For information about the Blue Badge scheme and how to apply please visit: www.dorsetforyou.com/blue-badge .



Harry Homewatch

Harry sensed an improvement in the Dorset Alert system, not only in the frequency of reports but also in the content.

Information on meetings covering, driving updates for older people, surveys to elicit the views of members and prompt warnings relating to local crime.

Then best of all, information regarding the naming and sentencing of local criminals.

Well done to everyone behind the Dorset Alert system.

If you are not signed up to the system please do so, Harry thoroughly endorses it.

Hopefully when you read this, things will have dried out and Spring will be on its way.

Don't forget when you are out in the back garden, the front of your property needs to be secure. Do not leave expensive tools unattended when you nip inside for a cuppa, they are easily sold at car boot sales.

On that subject it also pays to have your tools marked with your postcode so that in the event of a theft and their recovery you can identify them. The marking kit is available from your Contact and is free.

Follow Harry in further issues of Update.

Harry Homewatch Contact John Poat, jpoat10694@aol.com

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existing windows

Home Watch subs 2016

In order to align subs with our new year-end, members with current subs which expired on 30th September 2014 were eligible for free renewal up to 31st March 2016.

The 'nominal' sub remains at £1 per year; however:

Existing members will renew now for £2 and receive a new membership card, valid until 31st March 2020.

New members (or lapsed members) joining in the next 3 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 Coordinator or Contact.