

www.colehill.gov.uk/homewatch

Update

Autumn 2016

Issue 56

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

We seem to have got through the first part of summer without too many issues, other than a spate of theft from vehicles, though one that keeps coming up is the 101 service.....

Calling 101?

I continue to hear reports of the time it takes to get through on 101; if you don't need to speak to a person you can email **101@dorset.pnn.police.uk** or use the online reporting page:-

An Alternative to Calling 101

Dorset Police receives over 1300 calls to 101 and over 200 emergency calls to 999 every day. These levels increase in the summer months and therefore the demands on call handlers is considerable. A new Dorset Police website was launched in June that makes the process quicker and easier than calling 101.

'Do it Online' at **www.dorset.police.uk** has a wide range of online reporting and enquiry tools, including:

- Report a Crime or Incident: If you have something to report, which isn't happening right now.
- Request a Call Back: You can request a call back at a time that suits you.
- Message for an Officer: You can leave a message for a specific employee.
- Make a Complaint/Leave Feedback: Make a complaint or provide comments, compliments and suggestions about Dorset and Neighbourhood policing.
- Freedom of Information:- Obtain information under the Freedom of Information Act.
- General Enquiry:- You can make general enquiries quickly and easily without the need to call 101 and wait in a queue.

A large percentage of calls received by Dorset Police are for other agencies and are not a matter for the Police. The Police understand that the public cannot always keep up with the frequent changes to public organisations and responsibilities, but the following matters are dealt with by local councils, not by the Police: *(continued on page 2)*

GRAVEL ON PAVEMENTS

Can anyone who has a gravel driveway PLEASE sweep the gravel up occasionally! (& pick up rubbish when putting the bins out?)

New Guide

National Neighbourhood Watch have produced a guide which has been sponsored by the Co-op. Your free copy is being distributed with this issue of *Update*.

You can also download a copy in pdf format at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge/membersguide



Some good news!

Following the investigation in to the burglary that occurred in Rowlands Hill on 3rd August, the offender has now been arrested and charged with this offence. Obviously this is great news but we would rather have prevented this burglary from occuring in the first place.

The obvious feature that prevents the most hardened criminal is a burglar alarm with the visual deterrent of an alarm box being sited at the front of the property. Secondly, secure access to the rear and ensure that where possible window locks are engaged on all ground floor windows and those accessible via a flat roof. The postcoding and photographing of rare or expensive items will greatly increase the chance of them being returned if they do happen to be stolen.

BIGS SCAMS

published by the Metropolitan Police has been updated to version 3 - download at www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf

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 Nov.

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

- Parking issues and driveway obstructions.
- Noise complaints including parties, bonfires and fireworks.
- Recycling and rubbish, bin collections, fly tipping.
- Litter, dog fouling, lost & found animals. Pest control.
- Street lighting, parks. Trading Standards.

Action on Lost & Found Property

What to do about lost property? In bygone days, one would visit the local police station to have the loss recorded. Now it can be done online. The new website has a link to the national 'ReportMyLoss' website.

Lost property reported this way will be given a lost property reference number for use with an insurance claim. Details are searchable by any UK police force, which improves the prospects of recovery of the property.

Found property should be handed in only if it is:

- Mobile phones, laptops, cameras or anything with a memory card.
- Personal ID such as passport, driving licence, bank card, utility bill.
- Drugs, poison, hazardous substance/liquid.
- Firearms, ammunition, explosives. Significant amounts of cash.

What NOT to use 101 for....

Enquiries about dental appointments, seagulls causing a nuisance or requests for bus timetables are not appropriate calls for the Police. Here are some calls we have received recently on the 101 line:

My BT landline is not working and I can't get through on the fault line ...

When does the Natwest bank open ...? My front door won't shut ...

My printer was delivered today but no warranty with it ...

Can I have the details of a locksmith as my key won't turn in the lock anymore? Why has the traffic slowed down? ... Can you get me the talktalk contact number? Need help with a crossword: something a policeman holds, t something s something, something, taser ...!

Cannot find my dental appointment and can't get through to the dentist ...

Wanting travel updates for Ringwood ...

Complaint that taxi was waiting outside and the fumes were annoying ...

Male wanting to report his wife for making him pay for her taxi ...

My mum won't give me any money ...

Wanting a lift from Dorchester to Bournemouth ...

New to area, wants directions to B&Q ...

Caller unhappy with service of NHS, wants to know what the police can do to help... My cat has got into neighbour's garden and I'm worried their dog will attack it ... Who should I pay my car insurance to ...?

Please think before you call. Only call Dorset Police if you need police assistance.





Protecting Our Urban Heathlands

Dorset heathlands are threatened each year by fire and other damage. This happens by accident, through recklessness and also deliberately. The Urban Heaths Partnership (UHP) is calling on everyone who regularly walks on the heathlands in the Purbeck, East Dorset and Poole areas to help them protect the natural habitat. Damage includes:

- · Arson.
- Trampling of rare plants and animals.
- Erosion of vegetation and sandy heathland soil.
- Disturbance of ground-nesting birds such as nightjars and woodlarks.
- Enrichment of the soil by dog faeces.
- Fly-tipping of rubbish and garden refuse.
- Predation of rare animals by domestic pets.

Most heathlands in Dorset have national and international conservation designations to protect the rare habitat and wildlife supported by them.

The UHP comprises 14 organisations, including police, fire and rescue services, local authorities, Natural England, Dorset Wildlife Trust, The Amphibians and Reptiles Conservation Trust (with an important role on Parley Common), the National Trust, the RSPB and the Forestry Commission.

The UHP works to protect and enhance Dorset's heathland by carrying out education programmes and proactive prevention activity in schools, the community and on heathlands.

- If you are on a heath when a fire occurs please leave by the nearest route and call 999 with as much information as possible.
- You can also help by reporting any anti-social behaviour on the heaths, either to the wardens or to the police on 101.
- Remember, it is not safe to light barbecues or camp fires on any heathland site.
- Do not ride motorbikes on the heath. It causes irreparable damage to the land, habitats and wildlife.

To find out more and about free events please call 01202 642787 or email urbanheaths@dorsetcc.gov.uk

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Meet the team on our website www.clarityltd.co.uk info@clarityltd.co.uk

Turning back the clock

Car 'clocking', the practice of rewinding a car's mileage reading is estimated to have increased last year. For unscrupulous traders it is an easy way to make money as a car's value can increase up to £10,000 by reducing the mileage of a vehicle by using a digital device that plugs into the cars electronics. If you buy a car with an altered mileage then the timing for necessary services and safety checks will also be incorrect.

Trading Standards up and down the country investigate complaints of cars having been 'clocked'. A Warwickshire car dealer was recently jailed for twelve months after admitting to 'clocking' cars and his mechanic for six months for forging documents such as MOT certificates. These days cars that have been 'clocked' are less likely to be found on the forecourt and more likely to be found on auction websites, social media and small ads such as Ebay, Facebook and Gumtree.

When buying a second hand car there are things that you can look out for:

- Chips on the paintwork may indicate lots of motorway driving;
- Worn rubber pedals and steering wheels indicate lots of use.

The average car travels 10,000 miles a year so if the car looks like it has more wear and tear than expected it may have been 'clocked'. Checking a vehicle's paperwork such as the service record and MOT history can help determine genuine mileage.

Check MOTs on line at www.gov.uk/check-mot-history. Information held by the DVLA about a vehicle's identity can be found at www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-information-from-dvla.

Look out for Trading Standards approved car retailers displaying the Buy with Confidence logo, or visit the website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06 for advice on buying a second hand car or to report something to Trading Standards.

Untaxed Vehicles 'For Sale'

There is an increase in the area of vehicles being parked and advertised for sale.

Many are untaxed or on SORN but are being driven illegally on the road, without insurance.

The problem appears to have grown since the abandonment of car tax discs. Untaxed vehicles can be reported to the DVLA (www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle) or to Dorset Waste Partnership, as technically they are classed as 'abandoned vehicles'.

Sadly the DVLA are not too quick in taking action but residents are urged to act if they are concerned about these vehicles, by checking the taxation status using the DVLA website (www. gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax).

Residents might agree that it is in everyone's interest to report these vehicles. Public action can change the face of what appears to be official complacency.

Dorset Police



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 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
11.45-12.30
at Centre Rendezvous,
St Michael's Church
Centre, Colehill

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Wimborne & Colehill Neighbourhood Policing Team

With the school term started, it's a good chance to say the level of Anti-Social Behaviour has been at a very acceptable level and the conduct of our young persons in Wimborne & Colehill has been excellent. We are looking forward to engaging with more people when the Reef Youth & Community Centre re-opens shortly.

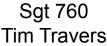
Team changes

Our colleague PCSO Roz Fricker has left Wimborne NPT and begun training to be a Police Constable at Ferndown, but has a good chance of returning in a new role in the coming months, and we wish her the best of luck.

Theft from vehicles

In early August around 10 incidents of theft from unattended vehicles were reported. These occurred around the area of Cranfield Avenue and the many residential roads off it, St Johns Hill and Rowlands Hill as it climbs towards Wimborne Road. It appears that every one of the cars that had access gained

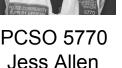






PC 1503 Ian Curtis







PCSO 5963 Huw Evans

had been left unlocked overnight and had been opened, and small items including petty cash taken.

It's important to lock your vehicle and completely empty it of any belongings, even if you park it off the road on a driveway.

Burglary

At a similar time a burglary was committed on Rowlands Hill. Entry was gained by breaking a side window and jewellery may have been taken. There are several pages of crime advice available at Dorset.police.uk, and to prevent burglaries some good advice is to:

- Fit and use a burglar alarm both in your house and in your garden shed/garage.
- Put lighting around the outside of your house.

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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

Open every day (except Sunday) from 10.00 until 12.00

Telephone 01202 876219

Email: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

- Cut back hedges/vegetation to allow your property to be visible from the road and to prevent hiding places in your garden.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure and please give serious consideration to upgrading to modern PVC/hardwood.

Public Wi-Fi Security

Dorset Police are making the public more aware that public Wi-Fi networks, such as those in cafes/restaurants/buses, may not be secure enough to use banking apps or send confidential information (see getsafeonline.org).

Join Dorset Alert

Do it online if you can (see below), or call 101 after filling the form in manually to arrange for one of us to collect it.

Contact us

Join us on Facebook/Twitter for up to date information and advice (see right).

Use this page online www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/ to report things quickly, especially lost property.

101 is the non-emergency number – contact an officer, report a crime/incident/ ASB that is non urgent, or ask for advice. Use **999** when a crime is happening now, life or property is in danger or an offender is still there.

Regards, PC Ian Curtis, PCSO Jess Allen, PCSO Huw Evans.

What happened to Chapel Gate?

The £3.3million scheme to improve the busy junction near Bournemouth Airport has been put on hold. Dorset County Council and the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) confirmed work at Chapel Gate has been postponed to allow the plans to be developed further.

A spokesperson said: "The current Chapel Gate scheme is on hold. Dorset County Council is working with the Dorset LEP on further assessment work to improve the junctions along the B3073 to ensure the most cost-effective delivery of the transport schemes within the Bournemouth International Growth (BIG) programme."

LEP director, Lorna Carter said they wanted to look at the B3073 in its entirety, from Longham mini-roundabouts to Blackwater. "The work on the A338 has been fantastic and we want time to take a proper look at what's next. We're trying to be responsive and to see what the public really want." She said the project had not been abolished and could be used once the reassessment had been completed. "Over the next couple of months it will be much clearer. We're looking at whether there is a different order we can do things in and if it would be better to do something different."

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 Ian Curtis PCSO Jess Allen PCSO Huw Evans

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.

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





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Trading Standards News

Twitter users!

Twitter users may like to know about a new Twitter account specifically for the Trading Standards Service in Dorset. Until now information has been provided occasionally through the County Council's Twitter feed but recently Trading Standards have begun using a specific twitter account under the handle @dorset_ts. This will mainly be used to distribute advice and crime prevention messages, but I will also feature some of the day to day work of the Service.

You can see what we've been doing so far by clicking this link: https://twitter.com/Dorset_TS

Keep Dorset Markets Free from Fakes

Dorset County Council's Trading Standards team seized over 800 fake items from a stall at Portland Market on 9 August. Trading Standards officers, acting on a tip-off from a visitor to the market, identified imitation watches, sunglasses, clothing and other items for sale by a stallholder from Bournemouth.

When confronted the stallholder admitted selling counterfeit goods and the items were seized. Following further checks on the seller and the confiscated items formal action will be considered.

The Trading Standards Service continues to discourage the use of these outlets to sell illegal goods. As well as undermining responsible local retailers and businesses generally, counterfeit goods have well-established links to organised crime and can put consumers at risk.

Ivan Hancock, trading standards service manager, said: "We are grateful for both the tip-off and the subsequent swift intervention by three of our colleagues on this. I would certainly warn anyone thinking of selling counterfeit goods at Dorset's markets and fairs to think again. The first point of contact for consumers wishing to complain about any goods or services is the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06."

The copied brands include Nike, Fred Perry, Louis Vuitton, Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci, Chanel and Ralph Lauren.

Find out more about the work of the Trading Standards Service: www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/trading-standards

Scams: it could be you, don't let it be you

Postal scams may start as innocent looking catalogues selling fancy goods or vitamins where by ordering you'll be entered into a prize draw. They may tell you that you have won a prize and need to send money to process the winnings. They may promise good health and fortune, messages from beyond the grave or a possible romance, all for a fee. If you respond, they know your name and where you live. You will be added to a list and that list will be sold amongst international fraudsters.

The next wave of scam post will be personally addressed to you. You respond again, sending money and perhaps more personal details. You then get a phone call dazzling you with promises of wealth and happiness, or playing on your good nature and you will send more money. The list you are now on will be even more valuable when traded amongst international fraudsters. That is because you have given out more personal

details: you have proven that you reply to scams and that you freely send money. Before very long your post will be full of personalised scam mail and you will receive regular telephone scam calls.

Research shows you will not tell anyone about your problem, only 5% of victims do. Over time the scammer will have groomed you to be their friend. If you are a chronic victim you will not believe that you are being scammed and no one will easily be able to change your mind. A report in 2015 by Age UK suggests 53% of people aged 65+ believe that they have been targeted by fraudsters.

The effects of having been scammed reach far beyond the financial. Future financial security can be severely affected, but so too can health, independence and wellbeing. Trading Standards Service work with victims to reduce this type of financial abuse. Over time and with the help from other trusted people who help reinforce positive messages they seek to reduce scam mail from reaching a victim thereby gradually stopping the financial abuse.

If you are concerned that someone you know is a scam victim, the first point of contact is the national Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Rogue gardener jailed for fraud

A Bridport gardener has been jailed for two years after charging his 78 year old victim £760 for an hour's work pruning a tree.

Andrew Cooper (43) was sentenced at Dorchester Crown Court on 7 July having pleaded guilty to an offence under the Fraud Act 2006 of misrepresenting the gardening work as being worth £760 and to consumer protection offences of failing to provide his customer with a notice of his right to cancel the contract or providing his contact details. Cooper also admitted unrelated offences of public disorder and possessing an offensive weapon which were brought by the Crown Prosecution Service.

The court heard that in September 2015 Cooper had called uninvited at the home of a 78 year old man, who he had previously done work for. He told the man that he was going to prune a cherry tree, but did not discuss a price, or give him a notice of his right to cancel the contract, as required by law. An hour after starting the job Cooper suggested a £900 fee, but as the victim was a loyal customer he would accept a £750 payment and only in cash. The victim gave him £60 and Cooper followed the man in his van while he drove to the cash point in Dorchester where he was given a further £700. The police were alerted by a concerned neighbour and contacted the Trading Standards Service, who investigated.

The judge said that Cooper had ignored repeated advice from the Trading Standards Service. He also remarked that Cooper had set out to target a vulnerable individual and ignore the regulations. He gave credit for Cooper repaying £700 of the money, but said he only did this because 'he knew the game was up'. Cooper was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £3,686 to the County Council.

Ivan Hancock, the Council's Trading Standards Service

Manager, said, "Tackling rogue traders that prey on vulnerable adults is top priority for our Trading Standards team and this case illustrates that the courts also take this very seriously. We are still keen to ensure that residents do all they can to avoid becoming a victim by saying no to uninvited doorstep traders."

Consumers can also look for a trader who is a member of the Trading Standards 'Buy With Confidence' Scheme. Members are audited by Trading Standards prior to acceptance in the scheme. To find a trader in the 'Buy With Confidence' scheme check the website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

'Legal highs' are now illegal

A blanket ban on the sale of New Psychoactive Substances came into force on 26 May 2016, outlawing the trade in so-called 'legal highs'. Also known as New Psychoactive Substances they are capable of affecting a person's mental or emotional state mimicking the effects of drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy, but are structurally different enough to avoid being classed as class A, B, or C drugs.

One type are designed to make people feel overconfident and disinhibited but can induce feelings of anxiety, panic, confusion, paranoia, and even cause psychosis, which can lead to takers putting their own safety at risk. They can put a strain on the heart, nervous and immune systems. People may feel quite low for a while after they've stopped using them.

Another type are designed to be more sedative, reducing inhibitions and concentration but they slow down reactions and make people feel lethargic, forgetful or physically unsteady, placing them at risk of accidents. They can cause unconsciousness, coma and death, particularly when mixed with alcohol and/or other 'downer' drugs. Some people feel very anxious when they stop taking them and may need medical attention.

The last type are hallucinogenic but can cause confusion and panics making people behave erratically and putting their own safety at serious risk or self-harm. Feelings of mind and body separation can occur, interfering with judgement, putting people at risk of harm from acting carelessly or dangerously, particularly in unsafe environments.

What concerns experts too is that there has been little or no useful research into the short or long-term risks from human

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

consumption. Psychoactive substances have widely different strengths and effects on different people. You can become addicted too.

The new law makes it illegal to supply any so-called "legal highs" for human consumption. This includes selling them or giving them away for free (even to friends) when they are going to be taken for their psychoactive effects. Importing them from abroad will also be a crime. Police, in partnership with Trading Standards will take action where they find people supplying them. Punishments range from a prohibition notice, which acts as a formal warning, to 7 years in prison.

If you have information about the sale of New Psychoactive Substances or 'legal highs' please report it to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

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Harry Homewatch

It seemed to Harry that belonging to the local Home Watch Group was a sensible thing to do. The cost was minimal but the sense of belonging and doing something useful for the community that you reside in was a great comfort.

With the financial cutbacks cutting into the Police funding there were obvious reductions in the number of personnel available on the street.

Therefore the Home Watch providing the eyes and ears of the local community, passing information to the local Neighbourhood Police, was even more important now.

What concerned Harry was the total lack of responses to the recent advertising for volunteers to help out with some of the support tasks. Most tasks are carried out by the committee, consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, 7 Area Coordinators who cover the Home Watch areas in Wimborne & Colehill, and not least the Editor of our excellent Magazine.

Many of these people have served for over 10 years, some even 25 years. Now they are also supporting other activities such as manning the Sheducation vehicle at demonstrations and providing manpower for the recently introduced speed checking teams.

Come on members, a couple of hours a month from a few of you would make all the difference.

Enjoy the remains of this good summer weather and keep up the good work.

Harry Homewatch

Contact John Poat, jpoat10694@aol.com

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Home Watch subs 2016

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

As of 1st April 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 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 Area Coordinator or Contact.