

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

Wimborne & Colehill Home Watch has been awarded Dorset Police Watch Group of the Year

The previous year's award was to Corfe Mullen so we're keeping it local! Well done to all the volunteers who help our Home Watch to function. The award is due to be presented in late February.

The Annual Meeting is on 15th May - see right

Please make a note of it now, as the May issue of 'Update' is unlikely to be out beforehand. Please send nominations for Officers to me by 1st May.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Inspector Whitley is retiring and Inspector Simon Perry will be taking over in March. (Shawn - you haven't been with us long, but thank you for your help with Crime Prevention).

Police Surgeries

Please note surgeries are now half an hour – see page 4.

'Dorset Wayfinders' end on 31st March

Until then you can still contact your local Wayfinder Nick Hollingworth on 07971 338624.

A replacement 'social prescription' service to be funded by the Dorset NHS CCG starts on 1/4/19, but I have no further details as yet.

Attention all CONTACTS – New Member Subs

New members joining from Feb 2019 will now pay £1 and receive the Membership Card, valid till March 2020.

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

You are invited to our
Annual Home Watch Meeting
incorporating our AGM
Wednesday
15th May at 7 pm
(Teas at 6.45pm)
**in the Village Green Café,
Allendale Centre**

Agenda

Introduction

Policing Update plus Q&A

Chairman's Report

Matters Arising from May 2018 AGM

Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Election of Officers

All Welcome

Association of Dorset Watches AGM

Wednesday 8th May, 2pm for 2.15pm

**Hamworthy Club, Magna Road,
Canford Magna BH21 3AP**

Please check the ADW website www.nhwdorset.org.uk for the agenda, available by the end of April.

Speakers are Chief Constable James Vaughan and Police & Crime Commissioner, Martyn Underhill

All Dorset Residents Welcome

Wimborne and Colehill Community Speed Watch

exists for the purpose of educating drivers to live within the mandated speed limit, for one reason only: "The protection of life from the consequences of vehicle collisions due to excess speed".

We NEED VOLUNTEERS to come and join us, helping to keep our roads as safe as possible. It's not that demanding on time or effort as we operate in small teams, and training is available.

Please contact me for a chat:

Nigel – nigel.h.bailey@gmail.com

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: 26th April

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



SCAM ALERT – ‘Mystery Shoppers’

Dorset Police has received reports of social media posts which promise quick cash to people who take part in a ‘mystery shopper’ scheme.

This is a scam. Victims may end up having to pay for goods and contracts that they never receive.

The fraudsters will also attempt to gain access to the bank accounts and personal details of people who respond, enabling additional financial and identity fraud.

Remember: If it looks too good to be true, it almost certainly is. Do not >

All that glitters...

Posts on social media that promise quick money or free goods look too good to be true. They are.

Be especially wary if asked for upfront payment or banking details for a “credit check”.

Don't respond, and don't share the ads.

...is not gold

Report all scams and frauds to Action Fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040

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SCAM ALERT *continued*

> respond to social media posts or ads of this kind, and do not share them with your friends.

Report all scams and frauds to Action Fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. Each report received through Action Fraud helps the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau identify serial offenders, organized crime groups and find emerging crime types.

If you live in Dorset and think you have been a victim of a scam like this, please also contact Dorset Police at 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk

More about scams, fraud and cyber-crime at: www.dorset.police.uk/help-advice-crime-prevention

Safer Internet Day 2019

This took place on 5th February; 'Top Tips' for parents and carers are available on their website – click on 'Advice Centre' at www.saferinternet.org.uk



SafeWise, Bournemouth

www.safewise.org

01202 591330 (9am – 4pm)



LifeDrive –

Improved skills for young drivers, 28th March

LifeDrive has been designed to reduce accidents by helping younger drivers to understand why collisions happen and how to avoid them, developing their skills and experience with free post-test theory and practical sessions.

The course is open to all young people aged between 17 and 25 who live in Dorset and have passed their driving test within the past four years. LifeDrive is available thanks to Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council and the Borough of Poole through delivery partners Gold Driving Academy.

- * 17-25 years old?
- * Passed your test but are feeling nervous about driving?
- * Like some extra driver training?

LifeDrives' FREE scheme can help you feel more confident by providing enjoyable interactive theory and practical driver training. Free £50 Amazon voucher for everyone completing the course!

The Course:

There are two elements to LifeDrive:

- a two hour classroom based theory session held at SafeWise Bournemouth and SafeWise Weymouth (usually held weekday evenings running from 7 – 9pm)
- a 90 minute drive-out with a DVSA Approved Driving Instructor. You will require your own vehicle for the practical session.

See lifedriveuk.org for future dates.

From our new Neighbourhood Inspector

Congratulations to WCHW for being awarded 'Dorset Police Watch Group of the Year'! A well-deserved recognition.

I would like to wish Inspector Shawn Whitley a happy retirement and thank him for his continued hard work within East Dorset. I am very pleased to be taking responsibility for Neighbourhood Policing Teams in East and North Dorset. I have 19 years police service, predominately spent in Poole and Bournemouth. I have completed roles in uniform and within CID. As a Sergeant I worked for 3 years within NPT at Rossmore, in Poole, and really enjoyed the role and working together with the local community. For the last 2 years I have been a Critical Incident Inspector for the force before coming across to North Dorset in November 2018.

The NPTs are committed to dealing with the issues that cause greatest harm to the communities we serve. As Spring approaches we are likely to see an increase in rogue traders. These offenders generally target the elderly, initially complete an "odd job" for a small fee and then favour claims of leaking water mains or damaged roofs and guttering for £1000s of pounds. Our advice is to never employ the services of any doorstep trader and to look out for your elderly neighbours. If you see any suspicious vehicles or receive leaflet drops, share them with your local NPT teams. For further tips please see the NPT report on the next page.

Finally, to enhance our visibility on line and share good news & crime prevention tips, all NPTs are using Twitter and/or Facebook. I would encourage you all to follow these sites. Social media frees up staff from phone calls or letter drops and allows them to get out and police the community they serve.

Simon Perry 1656, Neighbourhood Inspector for East and North Dorset Sections (from March 2019)



The East Dorset & Ringwood Branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship 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. Every month we listen to a speaker or have a "members' morning" and we arrange outings to both local and national places of interest. We also organise group meals at local restaurants and hold an annual Garden Tea Party hosted by group members.

We meet at 10 am on the second Tuesday of each month at the St. Leonards Village Hall, Braeside Rd, 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 at h.nield@btinternet.com



Dorset Police

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 except Jan
10.30-11.00
Methodist Church,
King St, Wimborne

First Wednesday
of the month
except Jan, Aug & Sept
12.00-12.30
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

Shed and garage burglaries continue to be an issue. The items thieves mostly target are expensive bicycles, petrol powered strimmers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, and power tools. We encourage you to follow these steps to deter intruders:

- Only use your shed or garage to store valuable items if it is substantial and secure. Use a heavy duty padlock and use fittings that can't be unscrewed.
- Good lighting and well-kept low hedges offer good visibility for neighbour to overlook the garden which is a good deterrent to thieves.
- A shed alarm is again an effective deterrent and gives thieves no time to look around.
- Chain expensive or easy-to-steal items together. For example, a strimmer and chainsaw chained together and to a larger item or good anchor.
- Take photos and record all serial numbers of machinery and power tools.

We have receive increased reports of rogue traders/cold callers. We strongly recommend that residents don't employ these cold callers. Tips to follow if called on by a cold caller:

- If you are not sure who is at your door – don't open it.
- Remember to use your door chain if you have one before you open the door to strangers.
- Always check the identity of all visitors if they are not known to you.
- Always look up telephone numbers for yourself. Do not accept numbers provided by cold callers as they could be bogus.

If you need a trader please take a look at Trading Standards website (www.dorsetforyou.com/trading-standards) or call them on 0345 404 05 06.

We would like to introduce our new member of staff who joined us at the start of February. PCSO 6308 Michael Hamilton-Fletcher has come from the 101 call handler department and is currently being trained in the Wimborne & Colehill area.

Contact us via 101 or email WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk
Regards, Wimborne & Colehill NPT.



Sgt 760
Tim Travers



PC 1757
Julia Ratcliffe



PCSO 5467
Julia Saunders

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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

Dog Theft

Pet theft is on the rise. Almost half of UK households have a pet at the heart of their family, and dogs are a target for pet theft. In 2016, 1,774 dogs were reported stolen. More than 60 dogs are stolen in England and Wales every week; few are recovered, despite the introduction of mandatory microchipping.

The theft of a dog is a criminal offence punishable by a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment. But such penalties are rarely enforced; minimum sentences of community service, a caution or a small fine are much more likely. Under UK law, pet theft is no different to the theft of an inanimate object: someone caught stealing a Labrador is likely to get the same sentence as if caught stealing a laptop.

With minimal deterrents, there are various dog theft networks working at local and national levels, specifically stealing pets for profit. Dogs are stolen in order to sell, to breed, for ransom, and even for use as bait in illegal dog fighting.

How to reduce dog theft

The Pet Theft Census revealed that 52% of dogs are stolen from gardens, 19% from burglary, 16% while out on a walk, 7% while tied up outside shops, and 5% when left unattended in vehicles.

Securing garden boundaries, locking gates, fitting visible alarms to properties, installing CCTV cameras and always monitoring your dog can help. As can varying walking times and routes, keeping your dog on a lead, and never leaving your dog alone outside shops or in vehicles.

If the worst happens

If your dog is stolen, it is important to act quickly:

- Report the loss to your local council's dog warden and those in neighbouring local authorities.
- Visit places where dog walkers go, such as local parks and public places and talk to people, asking them to keep an eye open for your dog.
- If you believe your pet has been stolen, report it to the police and insist it is recorded as a theft and not a lost animal. Ask for a crime reference number.
- Report the loss/theft to the microchip database, this will ensure that if anyone tries to re-register the chip number, you will be informed.
- Make posters and display them in areas local to your home and also in relevant places such as vets, local parks etc. The poster should include a clear photograph and details of the circumstances of the theft.
- Make sure local vets are aware in case someone takes your dog in for treatment.
- Report the loss on as many as possible of the missing animals websites – there is no single national missing animals database, so you will have to place the same information on all of them to ensure a widespread appeal.
- Contact local animal shelters and rescue charities, and send them posters to display.



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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 Julia Ratcliffe

PCSO Julia Saunders

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)
shave.jf@gmail.com

Colehill & Stour PACT

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

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

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Trading Standards News

Changing councils, but no change to the way you contact Trading Standards

Councils in Dorset are changing, but how you seek consumer advice or report something to Trading Standards remains the same. On 1 April, nine councils will be replaced by two entirely new organisations: Dorset Council; and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

The new Dorset Council will replace the existing district and borough councils (East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland) and Dorset County Council. All of these current councils will cease to exist.

The new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council will replace the three existing councils of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

There are good reasons why councils are coming together and these include: protecting important services for residents including housing, road maintenance, schools and social care; reducing costs and giving better value for money while cutting duplication; and giving councils a stronger voice nationally which will help attract business investment and government funding and support local economic growth.

More information about the changes including frequently asked questions can be found at www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk

Importantly too, asking for consumer advice and reporting something to Trading Standards won't change. As now, please call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506, or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer

Trading Standards, whether in the new Dorset Council or in the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, will continue to receive referrals from Citizens Advice and investigate problem traders.

Counterfeit goods – What is the real threat?

When we think of counterfeit goods we probably think of films, music and clothes, but what about electrical goods, cosmetics, or toys? These all have to meet certain safety standards set down in law. These standards are there to protect the consumer.

Counterfeit goods may not meet these standards: 98% of a batch of 'Apple' laptop chargers tested failed to pass one or more of the safety tests; tests on counterfeit lipsticks have found 300 times the permitted amount of lead in them; in 2016 airbags for vehicles which turned out to be counterfeit were found; and in 2017 one Trading Standards Service seized 88,000 counterfeit toys in the run up to Christmas. All of these failed safety tests and all highlight the potential harm to the public from counterfeit goods.

If something on sale seems to be too good to be true then it probably is. Organised crime groups play a large role in the supply of counterfeit goods and they obtain significant financial benefit from doing this.

Top tips to help you avoid buying counterfeit goods:

- * When buying online check the spelling and grammar on the website and in the URL – often the people behind these

sites do not pay a lot of attention or care to this detail. Fraudsters may also try to deceive you by slightly changing the spelling of a well-known brand or shop in the website address.

- * Look to see where the trader is based and whether they provide a postal address – just because the web address has 'UK' do not assume the seller is based in the UK. If there is no address supplied or there is just a PO Box or email, be wary.
- * Deal with reputable sellers – only use sites you know or that have been recommended to you. If you have not bought from the seller before, then do your research and check online reviews.
- * Get the trader to tell you if they provide an after-sales service, warranty, or guarantee.

For further advice on this, or to report something to Trading Standards, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

Romance Scams

Romance scams are crimes that break the hearts of victims, not only because of the financial loss they suffer, but also because of the loss of the relationships they believed were genuine. Thousands of people lose money to romance frauds each year after being conned on internet dating sites and social networks.

Scammers set up fake profiles, fake photos and claim to be from other parts of the world. The scammer weaves a story of a successful person working overseas, and presents themselves as a thoughtful, caring and loving individual who is looking for their soul mate. The scammers are good at what they do; they ask lots of questions of the victim about what they want in their lives. They then use the information and turn it into a dream that becomes a reality to the victim. They use words we all like to hear to win their victim's heart, and they use psychology to hold them in their spell. Once they have established a relationship then the scamming begins.

In all cases the plea for financial assistance is the key to the scam. This can be for assistance in cashing a cheque that they are unable to cash themselves, or asking for financial assistance to help them out of a difficulty they are having. For example, they were mugged, or involved in an accident, and are in hospital but cannot pay their hospital bill, or they are desperate to come to visit but need help with the money to manage that.

Panorama (BBC One, 19 November 2018*) showed a program called "Catfish: The Billion Pound Romance Scam" which exposed the international gangs behind online dating fraud. The criminals are called catfish, and they promise love and marriage to get cash. In the program, Athar Ahmad turned the tables on the fraudsters by using his own fake dating profile to expose the international gangs behind the crime.

For further advice, or to report a scam to Trading Standards, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

- * still on iPlayer: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bsvn2c
(NB. the character seventh from the end is a zero).

The Consumer Protection from
Unfair Trading Regulations 2008

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of Doorstep Crime**

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Concerns about an uninvited trader? Call:

Citizens Advice: 08454 040506

Dorset Police: 101

In an emergency dial 999

www.dorsetforyou.com/uninvited-traders

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www.pinpointsewingcolehill.co.uk clairefarnfield@yahoo.com

< Doorstep Crime / Trader Warning Notices

I have received requests to publish them again,
so here they are. I usually have some to give out
at the Police Surgeries, and a few are available
at the Ferndown Community Office – see ad on
page 4. Ed.

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Harry Homewatch

Hopefully by the time you read this the weather will be more Spring-like. Last week, ice and snow; this week monsoons followed by gales. Nothing boring about the weather in the U.K.!

One weather related thing: there is a tendency to leave your car with the engine running to warm up on cold mornings. On the surface this looks like a responsible thing to do, to clear the windows before driving off. However it is illegal to leave your car unattended with the engine running. Secondly the unattended vehicle can be stolen. The first question your insurance company will ask you is "where were the ignition keys at the time of the theft"? ... bye bye claim. I believe two were taken like this in this area last winter.

As the weather warms up we will be outside. All the usual warnings about securing sheds and garages, especially if they contain valuable tools. Also get your external valuables marked with your postcode and house name or number. If they are stolen and recovered the police can identify the owner and also have some proof against the thief. Marking kits are available via your local Home Watch Contact, there is no charge for members.

Continue to be observant for unusual behaviour – you are part of the intelligence network that the police need to fight crime.

Harry Homewatch,

Contact John Poat, jpoat10694@aol.com

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Home Watch subs 2018-2020

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

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

NEW members (or lapsed members) **joining from Feb 2019** pay £1 and receive the card, valid till 31st March 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.