

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

I apologize in advance for some overlap in the advice given in various reports this issue, but it's important to reinforce the security message at Christmas time!

Wimborne & Colehill Community Speed Watch

The team still needs more volunteers if Speed Watch is to be able to run regularly. One session has been run so far. Contact Nigel – see below – if you can help.

Treasurer's email address

Please note John Poat's new email: davidpoat2@gmail.com

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

Christmas Tips from Dorset Police

Christmas is fast approaching so here are some festive tips on having a safe and enjoyable Christmas:

- If you are going away, ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your property – open and close curtains, collect your post and use light timers.
- Keep presents and other valuables out of sight, always lock your windows and doors and keep your vehicle secure.
- Drink and drug driving affects real people, real families. If you're out enjoying a drink, plan how to get home without driving.
- If you've been drinking, beware the morning after. **Time** is the only way to ensure you are not driving whilst under the influence.
- If you're shopping online or browsing the sales, use reputable retailers and check payments are secure by looking for the padlock. Use a credit card or PayPal for online payments as it offers you a level of security.
- If you are out Christmas shopping keep your purse safely stored and your handbag secured. Always cover your PIN and never give personal details out.
- Christmas is a busy time, if you need us we are here 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can AskNED (see page 7) or 'Do It Online' instead – it's quicker, easier and less stressful than waiting in a queue.

New Gadget? Get registered at IMMOBILISE

If you get a new gadget, phone, bike or tools this Christmas, ensure you register it with Immobilise, the UK's National Property Register. In the event that your device or item is lost or stolen Police will have a greater chance of returning it to you if it is recovered.

It's free to register, find out more at www.immobilise.com

Just in from Trading Standards:

Christmas shopper? Remember your online safety checks!

Consumers could be putting themselves at risk of online fraud this Christmas. Past research has shown that more than two thirds of those surveyed leave out key checks when shopping online.

Simple online shopping safety checks include: look for signs that the website is using a secure encrypted connection, the little padlock sign should be showing to the left of the website address; read the seller's returns policy; search for reviews about both the seller and the product you're buying; bad spelling or grammar on a website can be a sign of a scam; look for a landline number and a head office address.

When people were asked for the reasons why they had not safety checked websites when shopping their responses varied but included 'being in a rush' or 'looking for the cheapest offer'. Fraudsters like people to rush into buying something without first taking reasonable checks, they also promote goods cheaply to draw shoppers in.

Purchasing products via social media is notoriously risky as it's hard to police and it's awash with misleading advertising, counterfeit and unsafe products, subscription traps and other scams.

As we approach the festive season take time when buying online and do take some simple steps before pressing the 'purchase' button.

If you have a concern regarding something you buy then you can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06. As well as giving you advice, the consumer helpline can pass information about complaints on to Trading Standards to investigate.

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)

tel 01202 884642

homewatchwandc@gmail.com

Keith Baker (Vice-Chair)

keith.furzehill@gmail.com

John Poat (Treasurer)

davidpoat2@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 Feb

Graham Mallett

(Editor / Advertising):

tel 01202 884642

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

*We are a member of the
Association of Dorset Watches
www.nhwdorset.org.uk*

Wimborne & Colehill Area



Drivers Urgently Needed

Have you got any spare time and a community spirit?

Would you be willing to become a Volunteer driver for our NeighbourCar Scheme?

The NeighbourCar scheme gives people who are over 50 and in need of transport, affordable door to door transport (by donation) to and from doctor/hospital/dentist/chiroprapist/hairstresser/shops/friends etc.

Drivers receive a donation of 50 pence per mile to cover expenses. This does not affect your insurance.

If you are interested and would like to know more about the scheme, please contact:

**Eric Burton – Chairman and Co-ordinator
on 01202 849360**

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From Trading Standards: A Cautionary Tale

My father who is in his late 70s and lives alone received a knock at his door one afternoon. Outside parked up was a white van and two males in their late 20's who offered to clean out his gutters for £40. As it would happen Dad's gutters had been overflowing and he saw this as an opportunity to get them cleaned. Having agreed to it the men then went into the rear garden to start.

With that there is a second knock at the door and Dad finds two Police Officers in uniform outside who told him they had seen the men pull over and knock on Dad's door and what did they want. Dad told them and the officers then asked if they could go and talk to them which they duly did. The Police Officers then stepped away and spoke into their radios. They returned to the house and told Dad they had made some enquiries and were satisfied with the situation but that he ought to be more cautious in the future regarding traders who knocked on his door offering to do work. No paperwork was given to Dad. Had the amount charged been over £42 then the men would have been legally required to give paperwork including an address and telephone number, a description of the goods and his cancellation rights.

If you pay or agree to pay over £42 for any services or goods that are sold to you in your home, then you have 14 days to cancel the agreement. If you cancel, any monies that you have paid should be returned to you.

The trader must give you a written notice of your cancellation rights when you agree the contract. If the trader doesn't provide you with this information, they commit a criminal offence.

You can show you do not want to receive visits from cold calling doorstep traders by displaying a 'We do not deal with uninvited doorstep traders' door sticker available from libraries across Dorset or by calling the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506. (*Also printed in issue 66 - Ed*). This is also the number to call if you would like consumer advice, or to report something to Trading Standards.

From our Neighbourhood Inspector

Dear residents,

As I write this I am pleased to report of a recent arrest of a 22 year old male from Poole. He was arrested following a spate of overnight thefts from vehicles in the Wimborne and Ferndown area on residential streets. On review of the crime series no damage was found to any vehicles, please ensure that you remain vigilant around security and **check that your vehicle is locked, and that valuables are not left overnight in vehicles.**

As the festive season fast approaches don't let an opportunist thief spoil your Christmas:

- Ensure if you purchase any large valuables such as TVs, pedal cycles etc., the packaging when left for collection isn't in the view of the public
- If going away consider using automatic timer switches for your lights
- A build-up of mail is a clear sign if you have gone away- consider using the Royal Mail "Keepsafe" service to prevent this
- Use external PIR lights to ensure the perimeter of your property is well lit – Pop into the excellent Ferndown Community Office in the Barrington Centre, they have a good selection of security products
- Avoid leaving wrapped presents on open display.

Cyber Crime also increases over Christmas as we all look to "bag a bargain" online. If you are shopping on line, if the price seems too good to be true be suspicious. Only use trusted well known sites, and ensure when you access a site the "padlock" icon is shown in the taskbar to indicate that the site is secure.

The drink drive campaign will be up and running – please ensure that if you are planning to enjoy a night out that you have planned for travel arrangements, and if you have any concerns that someone is driving whilst intoxicated to call us on 999.

Also with the dark nights and unpredictable English Winter please ensure that your vehicle is ready for the season, is it serviced and winter ready? Is the car battery is working well? Antifreeze levels correct? Screen wash correct? Exterior lights all working? Tyres in good condition?

And consider having these items in your car: a mobile phone and charger, a hazard warning triangle, hi-visibility vest, a first aid kit, de-icer and a scraper, Wellington boots, a torch, warm clothes, and water.

To keep up to date with latest police activity, crime prevention news and engagement events please follow the team on Facebook – search for "**East Dorset Police**".

We have just commenced 'Meet the team' sessions at Wimborne Police Station and it would be great to see you; the dates will be published in advance via our Facebook page and Dorset Alert.

I hope you have an excellent Christmas and take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Simon Perry 1656, Inspector.



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



www.dorset.police.uk

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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 your Home Watch scheme. Details of how to do this can be found in 'Latest Messages' on WCHW website or on the ADW website www.nhwdorset.org.uk

Wimborne & Colehill Neighbourhood Policing Team

Christmas is fast approaching and as we prepare for the festive season, we would like to draw your attention to a few points to have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Recent Notable Crimes:

Thefts from Motor Vehicles

The area has recently seen a spike in thefts from vehicles, in particular catalytic converters have been taken from vehicles parked on people's driveways. This has usually been done at night in the early hours of the morning. If you see or hear anything suspicious at night such as torches on driveways please contact 999.

Fraud & Scams

We are increasingly seeing people being targeted by elaborate scams where scammers ask the victim to transfer money to them from their bank account using a bank transfer. A lot of the times the banks are intercepting these scams, by asking questions to their customers regarding the origins of the transfer request; if it looks suspicious it will then be passed to Police to look into. Please be patient with bank cashiers if they are asking you questions as they are helping to safeguard your money from potential fraudsters.

Recent scams have involved scammers telling the victim the bank is corrupt and that their money is not safe. They then tell the victim that they need to move their funds to a safe account and that they should not disclose why they are moving the money to any of the bank employees. The scammers have on several occasions asked the victim to keep their phone call live on their mobile while the victim goes into the bank, so they can listen in.

If you find you have received a call similar to the above, do not engage with the caller. Wait 5 minutes then call your bank and report to them what has happened using a known number from a statement or other correspondence. Also report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Crime Prevention:

Remember to: – Ensure you have lights on your bike or scooter and are wearing a helmet – Wear bright clothing or a reflective



Sgt 760
Tim Travers



PC 1757
Julia Ratcliffe



PCSO 5467
Julia Saunders



PCSO 6308
Michael
Hamilton-Fletcher

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The Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk,
Ferndown BH22 9TH

Open every day except Sunday
from 10.00 until 12.00

01202 876219

Email: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

Products are also available at **Sheduction** events



top – Remember overhanging trees and foliage can make areas darker than in the ambient light. – Be aware that wet leaves or cold weather can lead to slippery conditions, please take extra care in these conditions.

New Year

New Year is a great night of fun, but please remember to follow the Firework Code if you are setting off Fireworks and remember, if you have a few drinks to welcome the New Year in, ensure you are fit to drive the next morning before jumping in the car.

Finally.... from all of us at Wimborne & Colehill NPT, have a safe & fun Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Crime Statistics for the year to end September

Please note this includes all reported crime, whether minor or serious – Ed.)

Crime type :	Wimborne		Colehill	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	216	36.18%	66	26.61%
Bicycle theft	4	0.67%	3	1.21%
Burglary	19	3.18%	21	8.47%
Criminal damage and arson	67	11.22%	17	6.85%
Drugs	10	1.68%	2	0.81%
Other crime	2	0.34%	3	1.21%
Other theft	38	6.37%	20	8.06%
Possession of weapons	3	0.50%	0	0.00%
Public order	31	5.19%	11	4.44%
Robbery	1	0.17%	0	0.00%
Shoplifting	36	6.03%	20	8.06%
Theft from the person	2	0.34%	0	0.00%
Vehicle crime	16	2.68%	4	1.61%
Violence and sexual offences	152	25.46%	81	32.66%

Please note some occurrences are still under investigation.

PACT Panels

Police, Home Watch, DC 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 your Home Watch rep (see right).

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

Wimborne Police Station:

The counter 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

PCSOs Julia Saunders,

Michael Hamilton-Fletcher

WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.
PNN.Police.uk

Facebook: Wimborne Police

Twitter: @WimborneNPT

DC www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Karen Graham, Community Safety Officer: Communitysafetyteame@dorsetcouncil.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

Councillors

Councillors who are on Town or Parish Council in addition to being a member of Dorset Council :

Colehill & Wimborne East Ward:

cllrjanet.dover@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

cllrmaria.roe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Wimborne Minster Ward:

cllrshane.bartlett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



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Trading Standards News

Drainage engineer prosecuted for misleading 94-year-old Dorset woman

A drainage engineer from Bournemouth has been prosecuted and ordered to pay over £9,000 after he misled a 94-year-old woman about work done at her West Parley home.

On 18 September, at Poole Magistrates' Court, Brendon James White, aged 26, of Cheriton Avenue, Bournemouth, pleaded guilty to two offences under the Consumer Protection From Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 of misleading a consumer while carrying out drainage work at their property. He entered his guilty plea just before the start of a two-day trial.

The court heard how one evening, in May 2018, Brendon White called, uninvited, at a 94-year-old woman's home in West Parley and offered to carry out a free CCTV inspection of the drains. During the inspection he told her that a drain was blocked. After clearing it he went on to state there were a large amount of roots growing into in the drainage system, there were displaced joints and that the drains required lining. She paid £3,435 on her bank card while Mr White carried on with the drain lining work.

The woman's daughter was later concerned and contacted Dorset Council Trading Standards who arranged for an expert to examine the drains. The drainage expert found that there was no evidence of any work having been required and he reported that roots were highly unlikely to have grown into the drains in any event. He valued the work that may have been required at only £172.

In sentencing, the Magistrates stated that the work had been unnecessary and excessive and that Mr White had taken advantage of the victim due to her age and vulnerability. Brendon White was fined £2970 and ordered to pay £3000 towards prosecution costs, compensation to the consumer of £3262 and a £170 victim surcharge.

Councillor Anthony Alford, Portfolio Holder for Customer, Community and Regulatory Services at Dorset Council said:

"Tackling rogue traders that prey on vulnerable consumers is a priority area of work for our team. All traders have a legal responsibility to ensure that they do not make false claims to consumers about the work required or the work they have done and our officers will continue to intervene in cases like these. If you are concerned that you or someone you know has been a victim of a similar crime or want to report something to trading standards, then call the Citizens Advice consumer service, the first contact point for any complaints to Trading Standards."

The national Citizens Advice consumer service can be contacted by telephoning 03454 04 05 06 or visiting www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer.

Consumers needing work done on their home can look for a trader who is a member of the trading standards 'Buy With Confidence' trader approval scheme. Members are audited by Trading Standards prior to acceptance in the scheme. Find out more at: <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/home>.



Dorset Council Trading Standards is a Friend Against Scams



Dorset Council Trading Standards has become a Friends Against Scams Organisation, committed to take a stand against scams in Dorset!

Scams are fraud and many people are contacted by criminals by post, phone, online or on the doorstep. Over half of people 65+ have been targeted by criminal scams. Age UK found that worryingly only 5% of people report scams, so 95% of people don't. Silence is a scammer's best friend as it allows perpetrators of these crimes to continue unchallenged and victims to remain unsupported.

There is a scam for everyone, and anyone can be affected. Young people can be scammed when buying a first mobile phone or paying online letting agents for student accommodation. Older people may fall for fake lotteries, prize draws and catalogue scams. Others may lose money when contacted out of the blue by someone purporting to be from their bank.

People who are more vulnerable to scams can receive multiple contacts a day by fraudsters and there are many reasons why people reply. Some feel they have an obligation to respond to letters or enjoy the routine of opening and responding to post. Some people want to receive the cheque for their promised winnings.

Friends Against Scams aims to break the silence around scams, giving people information to be able to spot the signs of a scam, talk with and support others and report scams. It is a national and growing scheme that aims to recruit 1 million 'Friends' by 2020.

Anyone can become a 'Friend', many people are, and you could too.

Visit the national website www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk to learn more about scams.

For advice about scams and to report something to Trading Standards call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

Day of action targets rogue traders in Dorset

Officers from Dorset Police teamed up with partner agencies to take part in a day of action to target and disrupt suspected rogue traders within the county.

On 12th September, officers joined forces with Trading Standards officers from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and Dorset Council, as well as

Dorset Waste Partnership enforcement officers to patrol the East Dorset, Christchurch and North Bournemouth areas to identify any potential rogue traders in operation.

While no offences were detected, officers from all three agencies spoke to a number of traders throughout the day and offered advice about their responsibilities within the law and toward customers.

Rogue trading includes charging for unnecessary work, damaging property deliberately in order to obtain money, leaving work uncompleted and using intimidating behaviour in order to extort money.

Police Sergeant Carmel Ryan, of Dorset Police, said: "We are committed to protecting the community from being targeted by rogue traders. We want to send out a warning to potential offenders that we do not tolerate rogue traders in Dorset and we will continue to work with our partner agencies to identify them."

Martin Thursby, Principal Trading Standards Officer at Dorset Council, said: "Rogue traders are a high priority for our service and a serious problem in the county, causing untold suffering to their victims. We will always seek to prosecute them when we have sufficient evidence. A number of incidents go unreported, or are reported too late. If you think you, a neighbour, or a friend have employed one, please report it to us using the Citizens Advice Consumer Service."

Members of the public should consider the following advice when answering the door:

LOCKED – Is the back door locked?

STOP – Am I expecting anyone?

CHAIN – Put the chain on BEFORE opening the door.

CHECK – Ask for the caller's identification. Shut the door leaving the caller on the doorstep and phone the number in the phone book NOT the one on the card they give you, as this could be an accomplice around the corner – especially if it is a mobile number. A genuine caller will be happy to wait while you do this.

If any consumers are concerned about any work being undertaken, please contact Citizens Advice Consumer Services on 03454 04 05 06 and any concerns will be passed to Trading Standards officers.

Dorset Police Recruiting 50 New Police Officers

It has been announced that the recruitment target for Dorset Police is 50 new officers as part of year one in the national scheme. The uplift numbers for year two and year three are yet to be confirmed. This figure will be in addition to the existing planned recruitment for officers already in place.

Chief Constable James Vaughan said: "This is a good start and it will bring a welcome relief to our stretched workforce. These much needed extra officers are great news for the communities that we serve in Dorset. I would like to reassure them that the new officers will be carefully invested for maximum effect."

For anyone that would be interested in a career in the Dorset Police family please visit www.dorset.police.uk/recruitment

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Harry Homewatch

Here we go again, Christmas is just around the corner, doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself, who knows it might stop raining by then.

I know that Christmas is a time for giving, which these days can mean spending money in sizeable amounts, often for the wrong item. So don't get carried away and spend the rest of next year paying for Christmas!

Now if you want to feel the real spirit of Christmas which costs you nothing, try and do a good turn for someone less fortunate than yourself. You will find that the feeling of satisfaction that this gives is just what Christmas is all about. Try it, it doesn't have to be an enormous gesture just something that is appreciated and unexpected. In other words put yourself out for someone else.

All the usual warnings at this time of the year:

Shopping for presents can be very stressful and this can lead to forgetfulness and errors in judgement. Unfortunately there are many opportunist persons about, especially at Christmas time. So be careful at ATM machines, in shops if swiping your card, putting purchases out of sight in the car boot, not leaving presents under the tree in full view of passers-by, usually lit up by the tree lights. Need I go on? Just be a little more savvy and enjoy the holiday season.

Happy Christmas to you all and a crime free New Year.

Follow Harry in further Issues of *Update*.

Harry Homewatch, Contact John Poat (see page 2).

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Home Watch subs 2019-2020

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 1st Sept 2019** pay **£2** and receive the current card, valid till 31st March 2020, then a free card for the following 4 years.

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 WCHW Area Coordinator or Contact.