

## Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

### Membership Renewals - Free!

Membership will be **free to existing members** for the next 4 years. New cards will be issued with this 'Update' to replace the current ones which expire at the end of March. (The £ amount can be left blank or struck through).

Though donations would still be welcome....!

New members will continue to pay the £2 'joining sub', for the 4 year period from now to 31 March 2024.

### Printing of 'Update'

Currently about 40kg each issue! Time to think about electronic copies? This is already being done by one group, with approx 85% takeup for the 'green' approach.

Anyone who would like to download their copy from the website instead of having a paper copy should advise their **Contact**, and provide an email address if they wish to be notified of publication. This is usually around 2 weeks after the copy date on pg 2 and on our website. Another advantage of using the online version is that links in the text work!

**Contacts** – please keep track of which houses no longer need copies delivered, and advise your Coordinator of the revised quantity required. Also submit any amendments to the membership details for your group.

### Corona virus advice – NHS website

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)

### Neighbourhood Policing Team

PCSO Michael Hamilton-Fletcher has left to go onto PC training, we wish him luck and hope his career will find him back here at some point in the future!

### A reminder about AskNED...



For help in discovering which agency to contact regarding a particular topic, view Dorset Police's Non-Emergency Directory... AskNED at [www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online](http://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online)  
Graham Mallett, Chairman (contact details – see page 2).

You are invited to our  
**Annual  
Home Watch  
Meeting**  
incorporating our AGM

**Wednesday  
6<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm**

(Teas at 6.45pm)

in the  
**Café @ The Allendale Centre**

### Agenda

Introduction

Policing Update plus Q&A

Chairman's Report

Matters Arising from May 2019 AGM

Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts

Appointment of Independent Examiner

**All Welcome**

**Association of  
Dorset Watches AGM**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm**

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

Please check the ADW website [www.nhwdorset.org.uk](http://www.nhwdorset.org.uk)  
for the agenda, available by the end of April.

Speaker – Chief Constable James Vaughan

**All Dorset Residents Welcome**

**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: 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**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/hairstylist/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 national Neighbourhood Watch Network

Crime Prevention Toolkits are available free on our website. Prevention is key in tackling all forms of traditional and modern crime but addressing modern crimes require new solutions if they are to be tackled effectively. Neighbourhood Watch has developed toolkits to support members and the general public in tackling burglary, domestic abuse, terrorism, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation, serious violence, and scams and older people.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/toolkits/>

## Neighbourhood Watch Awareness Week

**This year it takes place from 7th – 13th June.**

Look out for details of events where the Sheduction display will be attending. Products will be on display and available to purchase.



## Police Crime Statistics

The website has changed and it's now easier to view local stats on [www.police.uk/dorset/55.DH3002](http://www.police.uk/dorset/55.DH3002) - Ed.

## INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP

As you now know we will not be collecting subscriptions from existing members until 2024.

I would suggest during this time the following action, both from our **Contacts** and from the general membership.

In the forthcoming period up to April 2024 attempt to encourage new households to join our organisation.

I would suggest the very modest aim of one more new member from each of you. A neighbour who hasn't joined? Friends or family in other roads in our area?

If everybody achieved this target we could double our membership. However more realistically any increase would be appreciated.

*Good hunting! John Poat, Treasurer.*

## Older Drivers Forum

*Keeping older motorists on the road safely for longer.*



**OLDER DRIVERS**

Last September, Dorset Police launched the local scheme of Older Drivers Forum which is a not-for-profit making organisation made up of experts in road safety from across Dorset, with representatives from the emergency services to charities, local authorities and businesses specialising in keeping older people on the road safely for longer. We offer services and guidance for those motorists who feel that perhaps the time is right for them to retire 'from' driving and will be offering our guidance booklets to drivers and these are available in health centres and GP surgeries.

We aim to support and engage with the older driver in order to:

- Provide those who wish to continue driving with practical and informative advice on 'driving safely for longer'.
- Inform the older driver about the risks they face and ways to reduce them with tips on hazard perception.
- Help to identify when the time has come to retire from driving and offer relevant advice.
- To give advice to family and friends
- Have the opportunity to engage with some practical reaction testing games and tasks

More information [www.olderdriversforum.com](http://www.olderdriversforum.com)

Details of assessments: <https://www.olderdrivers.org.uk>  
(the nearest centre is on the Ferndown Industrial Estate)

*Adrian Lowes (Dorset Police, Neighbourhood Alert Assistant)*

## Reporting traffic concerns

*Dangerous Driving - Drink Driving - Drug Driving - Disqualified Driving:* [Enquiries@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk](mailto:Enquiries@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk) (or dial 101) for attention of Operation Dragoon

*Road Rage - Damage to vehicle (Fail to Stop Collisions) - Theft from parked vehicle:* [Enquiries@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk](mailto:Enquiries@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk) (or dial 101) for attention of Response Officers

*All Parking issues - Abandoned Vehicles:*  
[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) search 'Report road problem'

*Vehicle you suspect has no Road Tax:*  
<https://forms.dft.gov.uk/report-an-untaxed-vehicle/>

*Speeding Complaint - Careless or Inconsiderate Driving - Driving Through Red Lights - Driving Through One Way System or other Signage - Violation (No Right turn etc) - Use of Mobile Phone or other item causing Distracted/Not in Proper Control Driving - Not Wearing Seatbelt - No Insurance - No MoT:* [dorsetroadsafe@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk](mailto:dorsetroadsafe@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk)

Your report will be reviewed and placed on a rota for investigation or deployment dependent on the nature of the report and resource available. If you wish to submit video and photographic evidence in relation to witnessed driving offences please go to: <https://operationsnap.dorset.police.uk>

*All these links are online at* <http://www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk/enforcement-operations/reporting-traffic-concerns>



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](mailto:joh2lou@talktalk.net) or alternatively our Membership Secretary, Helen, on 01425 480202, or at [h.nield@btinternet.com](mailto:h.nield@btinternet.com)





[www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk)

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

Dorset Alert is a community messaging system operated by Dorset Police, which allows us to exchange information with you by email or phone at no cost to you.

The system is designed to allow people who register, to choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime and crime prevention.

*Sign up online, for email or phone messages – this free service is available to everyone, not just members!*

Please make sure you 'MAP' yourself to 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](http://www.nhwdorset.org.uk)

## Wimborne & Colehill Neighbourhood Policing Team

Wimborne and Colehill NPT hope you are well and keeping warm, we are all hopeful that Spring is on the way and looking forward to an improvement in the weather. However from a police perspective we are also aware that seasonally Spring is a time when we see an increase in scams and doorstep trading.

For any doorstep traders offering works such as driveways, roof, guttering et al. – our advice is simple – Never buy or engage in services from door step traders, think: who are they? And once they have gone: how can you get them back??

Also fraud has moved to more digital platforms such as online and via phone calls. Below are the 5 most common scams and sound advice on how to reduce the risk of being targeted.

1. Police scam – you may receive a call from someone claiming to be a police officer who convinces you to withdraw funds and hand them over to an investigator. They may give you a fake crime number and investigation details. They also convince you not to trust bank staff. In some cases, people are asked to call 999 or 101 to verify the call is genuine but the scammers keep the line open, so you are actually talking to them.
2. Amazon Prime scam - you may get a call from someone claiming to be from Amazon Prime saying you've been charged for an annual subscription. They tell you that fraudsters have hacked your account to authorise payment, but it can be cancelled if you press 1 and then give access to your bank account in order to undo the hack. Amazon Prime would never ask you to do this.
3. Bank scam - someone may call claiming to be from your bank saying there's a problem with your card or account. They may ask for your account, card and PIN details. They may also advise transferring your money to a 'safe' account to protect it. A bank would never ask you to do this.
4. HMRC scam – you may get a call from someone claiming to be from HMRC saying there is an issue with your tax refund or an unpaid tax bill. They leave a message asking you to call back. HMRC would never contact you in this way and ask for personal information and bank details.
5. Compensation scam – you receive a call to tell you that you



Sgt 760  
Tim Travers



PC 1757  
Julia Ratcliffe



PCSO 5467  
Julia Saunders



PCSO 7126  
Lorraine Potter

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## Community Office – Products

Products available do change - please check before visiting - the latest list is on :

**[www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org](http://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

**01202 876219**

Email: [ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com)  
Products are also available at **Sheduction** events





are due compensation for an accident and you are then asked to provide personal details and/or pay an admin fee to proceed.

Chelsea Davies ('CPR Call Blocker' Business Development Manager), says: "Whilst online scams continue to be grow, that doesn't mean that offline scams aren't also on the rise. Indeed, with so many people treating their mobile phones as an extension of their body, people are more accessible by phone than ever before. Some of these scams target specific individuals, while others involve people being called at random. Some involve phishing, a type of scam in which the caller is trying to find out information (such as personal or banking information) that can be used in other crimes.

We want to make people in Dorset aware that scammers are becoming more inventive and if something sounds too good to be true or out of the ordinary, it could well be a scam. Never give your bank details or pay something over the phone that you're unsure of. Especially if the call you receive is the first time you have heard of any payment that needs to be made."

#### **To stop unwanted calls**

- \* Sign up to the Telephone Preference Service – call 0845 070 0707 or visit [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)
- \* Don't consent to being contacted – get your phone number taken off directories and look out for tick boxes on all marketing correspondence to see if ticking or unticking them will prevent your details being passed on to third parties
- \* Consider getting a call blocker

#### **If you think you may be receiving scam calls, here are a few ways to protect yourself:**

- \* Don't reveal personal details. Never give out personal or financial information such as your bank details or PIN – even if the caller claims to be from your bank

*continued on page 7*

#### **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.**

The counter at Wimborne Police Station is closed to the public. To contact the Police ring 101, use the yellow phone by the front door, or email [101@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@dorset.pnn.police.uk) (The counter at Ferndown HQ is also closed).

#### **Wimborne & Colehill NPT**

**PC Julia Ratcliffe**

**PCSOs Julia Saunders,  
Lorraine Potter**

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

Facebook: Wimborne Police

Twitter: @WimborneNPT

#### **DC [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)**

Karen Graham, Community Safety Officer: [Communitysafetyteame@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Communitysafetyteame@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) (note the 'e')

#### **Crimestoppers**

**0800 555 111**

#### **PACT Panels**

#### **'Partners and Communities Together'**

Wimborne PACT

(Home Watch rep: John Shave)  
[shave.jf@gmail.com](mailto:shave.jf@gmail.com)

Colehill & Stour PACT

(Home Watch rep: Graham Mallett)  
[homewatchwandc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cllrjanet.dover@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Wimborne Minster Ward:**

[cllrshane.bartlett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrshane.bartlett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)



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# Trading Standards News

## New freephone number for the Citizens Advice Consumer Service: 0808 223 1133

This is who to contact with consumer problems, where consumer advice is needed or if you want to report something to Trading Standards.

There is a new freephone number for residents to use to call the national Citizens Advice Consumer Service – this service is funded by central Government and is the first point of contact for any consumers needing advice on unfair trading, or unsatisfactory goods and services they have bought, or to report a matter to local Trading Standards, at Dorset Council.

This replaces the normal rate 03454 04 05 06 number, which **will still work** and carry an introductory message to invite callers to make use of the freephone number.

An adviser will answer your call as soon as possible, usually within a few minutes. Once you are speaking to an adviser your call should take an average of 8 to 10 minutes.

Calls are free from mobiles and landlines using the new number: 0808 223 1133.

More details on the Dorset Council website, Trading Standards pages: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> and search 'reporting business'.

To enable Trading Standards to investigate offences and intervene in appropriate cases, referrals from Citizens Advice are made electronically overnight or by instant call contact where required.

## The value of reporting to Trading Standards

In the last full financial year local Trading Standards services together:

- Received around 500,000 complaints, and undertook 43,000 investigations
- Visited over 30,000 businesses to help them understand business law and trade fairly
- Prevented £26 million pounds being handed over to doorstep criminals
- Provided advice and support to 11,000 people affected by scams
- Found over 3,000 businesses that were supplying food that was mis-described, had undeclared allergens, contained illegal ingredients, or was involved in food fraud
- Tested 6,000 retailers and found a quarter illegally selling alcohol, tobacco and knives
- Detained over 20 million illegal products including tobacco, toys, cosmetics and electrical products, some of which could have caused life changing injuries



Dorset Council Trading Standards are always keen to speak and work with local business in flexible ways to offer advice and support to get things right. We put a lot of effort into supporting business in this way from home start-ups to established national companies. Trading Standards have a dedicated animal health team supporting Dorset farmers who are an important part of our business economy and natural environment too.

Sometimes a business' behaviour is so bad that we do need to take formal action to protect people and to act as a punishment and deterrent to others. Our prosecutions are usually reported in the local press, recent examples being rogue doorstep trading and animal welfare.

Many of you reading this will go about your daily lives buying goods and services from businesses without a bad experience. That's because we work often unseen in the background with the aim of keeping you protected. If you do however see unfair or unsafe trading that you'd like to report, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

## Wellbeing support for Dorset farmers

One area of work that people don't normally associate with trading standards is animal health and welfare.

We have a small team of officers who are responsible for farm animal welfare and disease control. There is a lot of legislation aimed at licencing the movement of farmed animals with the aim of controlling some of the nasty 'exotic' diseases that threaten the farming industry such as foot & mouth, swine fever and avian influenza.

The team is also responsible for ensuring the welfare of the animals whilst on the farm, being transported, or being sold at market. These welfare standards are very simple – the animal should be fed a sufficient diet, have clean water to drink, somewhere dry to lie down and to be treated if they are ill.

The vast majority of farmers easily meet or exceed these standards, but occasionally we come across cases where the farmer is not doing enough. This can sometimes be down to financial difficulties, but more often than not it is because the farmer has mental health problems. Some farmers can become very socially isolated and with a busy farm to run they find it difficult to find the time to go to their doctors or talk with others.

There are some excellent organisations who can offer help and support to farmers who are struggling. One example is a charity called Farm Community Network (FCN). They have a team of volunteers in Dorset, many of who are farmers themselves, so they really do understand the problems faced in the farming industry.

If you or someone you know could benefit from talking with a sympathetic person who understands farmers and rural life then call the Farm Community Network on 03000 111999.

## What connects Dorset Trading Standards and scuba diving?

Scuba diving is an exhilarating, popular past-time in Dorset and it's not hard to see why. The cliffs of the Jurassic coastline give way to an underwater world of shipwrecks and sea-life to explore and enjoy. With all the wonder it is easy to forget just how dangerous, and how vulnerable, a diver is. While under water they are completely reliant on the contents of the tank of air strapped to their back for air. If this air is contaminated, or not of the right quality, there are very real dangers. Most divers will understand too much carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide in the tank can have fatal consequence. >>

So what safeguards are there for divers purchasing air? In all likelihood, the tank would have been filled by a dive centre and supplied as part of a commercial transaction. And, just like any other commercial transaction for consumer products, the supplied air must be safe for consumers to use.

To help local dive centres ensure the quality of their air, Dorset Trading Standards service has operated a Divers Clean Air Scheme for over 25 years. Although voluntary, I'm happy to say most, if not all, of the diver's air suppliers in the area are members. Each member has a sample of their air periodically tested to the recognised standard. The levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide among others are all checked to ensure they are within safe limits. This gives the dive centres, and divers themselves, confidence that the air supplied will be of the expected standard allowing the diver to immerse themselves in the incredible beauty of beneath the Dorset coast.

### Police Report – continued from page 5

- \* Hang up. If you feel harassed or intimidated, end the call. You have the right not to feel pressurised.
- \* Ring the organisation. If you're unsure whether the caller is genuine, you can always ring the company they claim to be from. Make sure you find the number yourself and don't use one provided by the caller.
- \* Don't be rushed. Scammers will try to rush you into providing personal details. They may say they have a time-limited offer or claim your bank account is at risk if you don't give them the information they need right away

### UP AND COMING EVENTS

We are now pleased to be holding a monthly drop in surgery at Wimborne police station. This takes place on the last Saturday of every month between 10 am and 12 noon, please pop in and speak to one of your local neighbourhood policing team to discuss any local issues or raise any question you may have.

In other news PCSO Michael Hamilton-Fletcher who had been part of the team here at Wimborne for the last year has now moved on to begin training with Dorset Police to become a Police Officer. We wish him all the best in his new adventure.

*Wimborne and Colehill NPT.*



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## Harry Homewatch

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the weather will have improved. With Spring and the Easter holidays just around the corner, thoughts will be turning to making the garden more presentable.

In the past at this time of year there has been a spate of garage and shed thefts. Patently you should lock these outbuildings for security. In case you are a victim, put some thought to marking your more valuable tools. This will allow the police to identify the owner in the event that they are recovered – and also prove that they were stolen. A marking kit is available.

Car break-ins are also an annoying crime, the purpose is not necessarily to steal the car but to remove the many gadgets that we fill our cars with, such as sat-navs, mobile phones, tablets and dashcams. In the case of dashcams it is no use putting them in the glove box and leaving a mark on the windscreen – this is a dead giveaway.

The advice is do not leave the windows down if the day is hot, even by a small amount, it only takes a piece of wire to open most car doors. Even if the car alarm system is activated the thief will be gone before anyone can take any action.

Enjoy the coming summer but try and out-think the criminal element.

It's AGM time on Wednesday 6th May. Please make the effort and support this important evening.

Follow Harry in further Issues of *Update*.

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

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

## Home Watch subs 2020-2024

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

As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, **Existing** members are eligible for free renewal and receive a new membership card valid until **31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**.

**NEW** members (or lapsed members) pay **£2** and receive the new card, valid till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

*Note that membership is per household, not per person.*

If you move house within our Home Watch area your membership can be transferred to your new address free of charge and a new card will be issued to you. Members who move out of the area will forfeit any subs paid and new occupiers will need to join up in their own names.

If you're already a member of W&CHW we'd like you to tell your friends or relatives who live locally about the many benefits. Help us to make our community safer – details on our website. Your involvement makes a real difference in keeping us, our homes and our community safe.

Help fight crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities. To join contact Graham Mallett at [g@gpmcs.co.uk](mailto:g@gpmcs.co.uk); talk to your Neighbourhood Policing Team officers (details on page 5); or speak to your local WCHW Area Coordinator or Contact.