

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

It's Spring! So now's the time to volunteer: several roads have lost their Contact in the past year - if you've lost your Contact please consider coming forward, it doesn't take much time: Deliver 'Update' • collect subs (rare!) • join up new neighbours.

Ferndown Watch Community Office

The Ferndown Watch Community Office has moved from the Barrington Centre to the conservatory at the Day Centre next to the Barrington.

We are open from 10.00 until 12.00 **Monday to Friday** and will be manned by some new faces and some old ones. Details on page 4.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Brian Frecknall.



Volunteer with local charity Diverse Abilities

See ad right – also The Beehive, which supports adults during the day primarily, is looking for people with an hour or so every week/fortnight who have a hobby which they would like to share with the adults who attend.

ADW AGM

We encourage members to attend the **ADW AGM** on May 4th, so that East Dorset's needs are understood and taken into account when deciding on what actions to take to add best value for all Dorset members. *John Shave, ADW.*

Association of Dorset Watches AGM

Wednesday 4th May, 2.30 - 4.30pm

Registration, tea & coffee from 2pm

**Hamworthy Club (Main Hall), Magna Road,
Canford Magna BH21 3AP**

Free parking • Fully accessible

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

Speakers, subject to operational priorities, are

PCC David Sidwick and CC Scott Chilton

All Dorset Residents Welcome

e-AGM

We have decided not to run a 'physical' AGM, but we still need to approve the accounts (Officers were elected for 2 years last year).

We expect to end the year to 31st March with similar funds to last year. A full copy of the Accounts will be on the website by mid-April.

Motion 1. To approve the Accounts for year ended 31.3.22

To all members, if you wish to vote, please vote by email to homewatchwandc@gmail.com by noon on Wednesday 4th May as follows:

Motion 1 - For/Against

The result will be posted on the website by 6th May.

Get involved & volunteer

Diverse Abilities is Dorset's disability charity supporting children and adults with profound physical and learning disabilities across the county since 1955.

Donating your time is just as valuable as giving money, so it really does mean the world to us. You can work within our services and alongside the people we support, or with our fundraising team at events and in the office.

- Bucket collections
- Events support
- Gardening
- Painting



"I love helping at the Dorset Neon Run, with everyone having so much fun getting their fluorescent glow on!"
- Jules

Find a role that suits by contacting laura.stanley@diverseabilities.org.uk

**Your Wimborne & Colehill
Home Watch Officers:**

Graham Mallett (Chair)

tel 01202 884642

homewatchwandc@gmail.com

Keith Baker (Vice-Chair)

keith.furzehill@gmail.com

Nigel Bailey (Treasurer)

nhbailey@btinternet.com

**For details of how to join
W&CHW see page 8**

Update newsletter is 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: 1st Sept

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

Living in the Wimborne area and in need of transport? We can help!

The NeighbourCar Scheme gives people aged 50+ who are in need of transport affordable door-to-door trip (by donation) to and from the GP/hospital/dentist/chiropractor/hairdresser/shops/friends etc.



Wimborne NeighbourCar have volunteer drivers who can help you get to your appointment and back home safely.

A donation is requested to cover expenses.

To find out more, contact NeighbourCar
Coordinator **Mary McGovern** on **07912 273722**



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Keep safe, register your appliance

The UK trade association for the Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (AMDEA) is asking people to register their household appliances to keep homes safe. Both new and already in use appliances can be registered through the scheme. Product Registration allows people to be contacted more quickly in the event of their appliance being subject to a safety recall.

Consumers are being encouraged to register new and in-use household appliances with the manufacturer, or via the website registermyappliance.org.uk

Consumer research into product safety found that 83% percent of people who registered a product were primarily motivated by getting or extending a warranty. The survey also found the reasons respondents did not register appliances was because they did not want to or did not believe it was necessary (46%), or because they did not know they could register it (17%).

The Office for Product Safety and Standards is working with AMDEA to increase the registration of household appliances by advising consumers it will help make their homes safer. They recommend:

Register all your appliances. Check that all your household appliances are registered so you will know if they have been recalled. Many manufacturers will allow you to register household appliances that are up to twelve years old. Most household products can also be registered through registermyappliance.org.uk

Check whether small appliances are registered. Faulty toasters and kettles can cause fires. Register with the manufacturer to get recall notices before it is too late. Landlords make sure your products are covered in properties you own. Check that all the household appliances are registered so that you are contacted quickly if they are recalled. Check that products are registered in rented accommodation. Check that the owner has registered the household appliances. If they have not you should register the products yourself.

If you are concerned about a product's safety contact Dorset Council Trading Standards by calling the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

National Neighbourhood Watch Week

Takes place from 30th May - 5th June 2022

Look out for details of events in the local press.



Useful Links

The Association of Dorset Watches website has a page of useful links for advice and help
www.nhwdorset.org.uk/
[#UsefulWebsites-Help](https://twitter.com/UsefulWebsites-Help)

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.

99p

...is not gold

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

 **DORSET POLICE**

Food allergies and intolerances

If you have a food allergy or intolerance, it is important that you have the information you need to make safe food choices. There are allergen labelling laws that require food businesses to provide you with information about what is in your food, whether you are eating out or making your own food at home.

In the UK there are 14 legally identified allergens that food businesses should inform you about if they are used as an ingredient. These are: Cereals containing gluten such as wheat, Eggs, Fish, Milk, Celery, Crustaceans such as prawns, Molluscs such as oysters, Mustard, Sesame, Peanuts, Soybean, Lupin, Tree nuts such as walnuts, and Sulphites and sulphur dioxide.

There are lots of ways that businesses can provide allergen information – in an ingredients list on the packaging, listed on menus or signage, or on websites. In cafés or take-aways, signage may tell you how you can obtain the allergen information, for example, by speaking to a member of staff.

If you have an allergy or food intolerance it is important that you check the allergen information that is given carefully and if appropriate ask staff about your own particular issue. If you are unsure or you don't feel the person you are speaking to understands your needs, don't be afraid to ask for the manager.

If you come across a business which isn't meeting allergen information requirements, report it to the Food Standards Agency: www.food.gov.uk/contact/consumers/report-problem.

Do you have any spare time and community spirit? Drivers urgently needed!

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

We give people aged 50+ who are in need of transport affordable door-to-door trips to and from the GP/hospital/dentist/chiropractor/hairdresser/shops/friends etc.

To find out more telephone

Carol Davies – Lead Co-ordinator
on 01202 207300 or 07736133445



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NeighbourCar



**DORSET
POLICE**

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

Wimborne & Ferndown Neighbourhood Policing Team

Wimborne & Colehill Report

Sadly, crime has continued despite the impacts of the pandemic with fraud being top of the list both online & telephone, and not too far behind : Inquisitive and Metal Thefts.

Follow some simple steps to help prevent yourself becoming a victim of crime.

We can now return to visiting local beauty spots. Please ensure that your vehicle is secured when parked, and valuables are out of view and remember the question, "Do I need to take these with me?" before leaving home. If you are looking at some upgrades around the house or tidying up in the garden be sure to use reputable tradespersons to avoid becoming a victim of a Rogue Trader.

We have welcomed several new members to the team. Sgt 1309 Steven PAYNE who has joined the team over the last month; Steve has 25 years' experience in Dorset Police and has worked in Departments such as Bournemouth Custody, Bournemouth Response, and County Response. Steve lives locally and has a real interest in the development of all working relationships between the Police and its partners including Home Watch.

The other new members who have joined the team are Police Officer Kevin MILLER, who has several years' experience in Neighbourhood Policing and is transferring from the Bournemouth Area, and PCSO Nicola SYKES who is starting her journey with Dorset Police.

Dark Evenings (Be Seen)

Although becoming brighter, some evenings are still quite dark so don't get caught without your reflective kit or lights. Whether you walk/run or cycle/scooter, being seen on pavements and roads is important to reduce the risk of being injured by colliding with a vehicle, pedestrian or another bike/scooter.

- Wear bright clothing or a reflective top
- Ensure you have lights on your bike or scooter. Runners and walkers often place a red light on their bag or clipped to the back of their jacket.



Sgt 1309
Steve Payne



PC 1757
Julia Ratcliffe



PCSO 5467
Julia Saunders



PC 2931
Kevin Miller



PCSO 7126
Lorraine Potter



PCSO 5384
Neal Rooke

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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 Watch Community Office

Pennys Walk, Ferndown BH22 9TH
(now located next to the Day Centre)

**Open Monday – Friday
from 10.00 until 12.00**

Phone no. TBA - please check website

Email: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

- Remember overhanging trees and foliage can make areas darker than in the ambient light.

Be aware of the change in the Highway Code which states that drivers and people cycling are asked to:

- not pass people walking, riding a horse or driving a horse-drawn vehicle closely or at high speed, particularly from behind
- slow down when necessary and let people walking know they are there (for example, by ringing their bell)
- remember that people walking may be deaf, blind or partially sighted
- not pass a horse on the horse's left.

Recent Notable Crimes

Metal Theft including Catalytic Convertor Thefts: -

We have seen a drop in Thefts of Catalytic Convertors over the past few months. Operation Goldjuno is a new Dorset Police operation looking at targeting offenders, metal merchants, and identifying possible vulnerable locations, to continue this downward trend. The price of metal has been reported to be increasing over the next few months and the operation intends to tackle the possible upturn in metal thefts.

Rogue Traders: -

We have seen several rogue traders in the area over the past few months; some victims have paid over £8,000 for a job which should have cost them a tenth of that. The victims we visit are generally targeted by unannounced visits to their door by persons touting for business, however, there have been some scams initiated by telephone and followed up by a visit to the victim's home. The traders usually use pressure tactics to often force vulnerable people into paying several thousands of pounds for unnecessary work, which is usually carried out to a very poor standard if completed at all.

Please also remember NEVER to engage with anyone who cold calls at your doorstep, even local large firms. The NPT working with Trading Standards have been dealing with several rogue trader incidents across the Ferndown area, the majority of which are from cold calling companies.

To find a 'Trader ask friends and family for recommendations or contact Trading Standards' Buy with Confidence scheme on 0808 223 1133 or visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Computer Scams: -

What is a scam? Scams can come in many forms, but all are designed to get hold of your money.

They do this by getting you to reveal your personal details, stealing your information, or even tricking you into willingly handing over the cash.

It's important to know how to recognise a scam so you can protect yourself from fraudsters.

continued on page 6

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 (The counter at Ferndown HQ is also closed).

Wimborne & C/Mullen NPT

**PCs Julia Ratcliffe, Kevin Miller
PCSOs Julia Saunders, Neal Rooke
Lorraine Potter, Nicola Sykes**

WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk

Facebook: East Dorset Police

Twitter: @WimborneNPT

DC www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Karen Graham, Community Safety Officer: karen.graham@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

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

Wimborne Minster Ward:

cllrshane.bartlett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



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We'll also show you what to do if you think you've been targeted or have fallen victim.

How to recognise a scam

Knowing what to look out for when it comes to scams is one of the best ways to protect yourself.

- Unsolicited or unexpected contact - If you've received any kind of contact, but particularly a phone call, out of the blue, it is best to avoid it. Since January 2019, there has been a ban on cold calling about pensions. This means you should not be contacted by any company about your pension unless you've asked them to.
- Email address - If you get an email, expand the pane at the top of the message and see exactly who it has come from, it could say it's from TV Licensing but if you click or hover over the name it might reveal something different. If it's a scam, the email address the message has come from might not match up with the sender's name, have misspellings, random numbers or be from one of your contacts that's been hacked.
- Text messages – Modern scammers can make their numbers look like one you trust, like your bank's. The scam text message might even appear in the same conversation as legitimate texts you've had before. This is known as 'number spoofing'. Just in case, avoid clicking links in text messages, and don't be afraid to contact the company directly to check it's a real message.

Romance Scam

We have had recent calls regarding a new type of scam, called Romance Scam, this is where you meet a person online using a false account, they form a relationship with you, but before long ask for money stating they are in debt/trouble.

How do I Protect Myself Against Romance Scams?

- Scammers usually have a story that justifies why they are asking for money. Question if the story makes sense, and never send money to someone you haven't met face to face
- Don't reveal too much information about yourself online, especially on social media
- Talk to people you trust for advice about the relationship and get their view.

A good quote that will make us think about scams and fraud:

IF YOU THINK IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE – IT IS
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Remember, Take Five and think before you act.



If you believe you have been a victim of a scam, please call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and Dorset Police on 101 or the New Emergency Hotline 159 and you will be connected to your bank's fraud department.

Crime Stats

Wimborne/Colehill NPT is part of East Dorset Urban NPT, you can find lots of information regarding:

Local Crime Stats & interactive Map – Stop and Search Locations – Statistics – Our Policing Priorities

On the new East Dorset Urban Section of the Police.uk website – go to www.police.uk and select your area to search 'East Dorset Urban'.

Find us on Social Media

You can find information, crime prevention advice and much more on our social media channels at

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

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eastdorsetpolice

@EastDorsetPol

Message from Sgt Steve PAYNE

We are hopefully nearing the end of a difficult period for all, coronavirus is still with us, and impacting on us, but hopefully we are slowly returning to our normal working and living lives.

We are having an uplift in staff in the Team and will be ensuring that we are more visible and have more engagement with our various communities.

We are now returning to and setting up several community engagements which will be advertised locally, please come and say hello, meet the team and feel free to discuss any concerns you may have.

Please keep an eye out on your vulnerable neighbours. If you have any concerns they may be being targeted by anyone trying to exploit them please report it. Whilst we continue to receive reports of rogue traders cold-calling on the vulnerable, lockdown has seen criminals seek to fraudulently exploit people by phone or through the internet.

We are always enhancing our online capability. You can keep up to date with the team through social media and the Dorset Police website www.dorset.police.uk

If you are a part of a community group that have moved online during lockdown and might benefit from contact with the local neighbourhood policing team please send us a message at WimborneColehill-NPT@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk – we'd love to join the conversation!



Cyber crime can
affect us all

ONE  CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

For more information visit
cybersafe.dorset.police.uk



Trading Standards News

Do you know where to report scam messages?

Fake emails and text messages are a common tactic used by cyber criminals, their goal is often to convince you to click a link. Once clicked, you may be sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords and personal information.

In order to try and convince you that their messages are legitimate, criminals will pretend to be someone you trust, or from some organisation you trust. This could be your Internet Service Provider (ISP), local council, even a friend in need. And they may contact you by phone call, email or text message.

Reporting suspicious emails:

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, you can report it by forwarding the email to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service* at: report@phishing.gov.uk

As of 31st October 2021, the number of suspicious email reports stands at more than 8,100,000, with the removal of more than 67,000 scams and 124,000 URLs.

Thank you for your continued support.

*In a small number of cases, an email may not reach our service due to it already being widely recognised by spam detection services. The vast majority of reports do reach our system so please keep reporting any suspicious emails you receive.

Reporting suspicious text messages:

You can report suspicious text messages to your mobile network provider, for free, by forwarding the text to 7726.

If you forward a text, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious. If 7726 doesn't work, you can find out how to report a text message by contacting your provider.

(On many Android devices and iPhones, pressing and holding on the message bubble should present the option to forward the message).

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware

Avoiding financial fraud - call 159

Consumers wanting to avoid financial fraud now have a secure and easy-to-remember phone number to contact their banks, in order to avoid painful scams. It could prove to be the safest way for many to contact their provider if they have suspicions or concerns about any of their accounts.

Stop Scams UK and Global Cyber Alliance have launched a UK-wide **159** call service, which is designed to guarantee consumers a safe route to contacting their banks about any products they hold with them.

The scheme is urging people to "stop, hang up and call 159" to check calls are for real. The idea is to help those who believe they have been contacted by scammers claiming to be their bank, or by fraudsters who encourage them to transfer money. According to Stop Scams UK, criminal gangs stole over £470 million from individuals and small businesses last year by pretending to be a bank or other service provider, encouraging

consumers to falsely make a payment or transfer money.

Currently, banks that cover over 70% of UK current account customers are signed up to the scheme at launch, although more are expected to follow.

When to call 159

People are being urged to call 159 if they encounter the following:

- Someone contacts you claiming to be from your bank – even if they do not seem suspicious.
- You are contacted by someone claiming to be an authority figure (such as the Police) and told to transfer money – even if the request seems genuine.
- You receive a call about a financial matter and it appears suspicious.

If you have fallen for a scam and you want advice on what to do then call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline freephone **0808 223 1133** or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Why not become a 'Friend Against Scams'? Over 3000 people in Dorset already have. Visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Ofcom orders phone networks to block foreign scam calls



By Mary-Ann Russon, BBC News

Major phone networks have agreed to automatically block almost all internet calls coming from abroad if they pretend to be from UK numbers, Ofcom has confirmed. It said that it expected the measures to be introduced at pace as a "priority". Criminals have been using internet-based calling technology to make it look like a phone call or text is coming from a real telephone number. "We've been working with telecoms companies to implement technical solutions, including blocking at source, for suspicious international calls that are masked by a UK number", said Ofcom.

Advice to those who call 999 by mistake

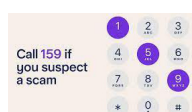
Dorset Police is offering advice to callers who accidentally dial 999, in an effort to reduce unnecessary demand placed on operators. The Force has seen an increase in the number of abandoned 999 calls. There are lots of reasons someone may abandon a call to the emergency services, for example a person calling in a crisis situation who is unable to ask for help.

The most common reason for an abandoned call is someone accidentally 'pocket dialling', where the phone is not locked and accidentally calls 999. A 999 call is recorded as 'abandoned' when the line is disconnected before the caller speaks to the emergency services or confirms to a BT 999 operator that they are safe and well. It can waste precious time that could otherwise be spent helping someone with an emergency.

Operators in the contact centre spend time researching the phone number and associated details to ensure there is no threat or risk to the caller. **If you do call 999 by mistake, please stay on the line to tell us everything is ok.**

Tips: Keep your phone safe and out of reach from children

- Lock your phone before you put it in your pocket
- Talk to children about how and when to call for help in an emergency – but how prank dialling 999 for fun can have serious consequences for them and others.



Harry Homewatch

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the weather will have improved. With Spring just around the corner and the Easter holidays, 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. However in case you become 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 prove they were stolen). A marking kit is available from your Home Watch Chairman, contact details on page 2; there is no charge for this.

Also be cautious when working outside in your garden. If you are working in the front of your property and it is time for a well-earned cuppa, do not leave garden tools, either hand or powered, unattended for any length of time. Certainly never leave such things outside overnight. Items such as these are easily disposed of at car boot sales!

Conversely when working at the back of your property make sure the front door and any windows are secure. It only takes a few minutes to remove something through an unsecured opening.

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 SatNavs, 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.

Ever the optimist, so here's looking forward to the coming sunny months!

Follow Harry in further Issues of *Update*.

Harry Homewatch, contact John Poat (davidpoat2@gmail.com).

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E-mail: p.decor8@outlook.com

Website: www.pdecor8.co.uk

Home Watch subs 2020-2024

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

As of 1st April 2020, **Existing** members were eligible for free renewal and received a new membership card valid until **31st March 2024**.

NEW members (or lapsed members) pay **£2** and receive the new card, valid till 31st 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; talk to your Neighbourhood Policing Team officers (details on page 5); or speak to your local WCHW Area Coordinator or Contact.

Street Contacts are reminded to notify details of any membership changes to their Co-ordinators.

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