

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY NEWS

SPRING
ISSUE

MARCH
2011



A quarterly Journal produced by and for Ferndown S. and West Parley Neighbourhood Watch in close association with the Dorset Police.

EMERGENCY ?

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ANY COMMENTS?

The Editor welcomes comments, letters and suggestions addressed to him at :-201 New Road, West Parley, Ferndown, BH22 8EE
email: trevor.sams@btinternet.com

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01202 896984

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Chairman's Report

The Seasons come around so now it is time for the clear up in the Shed. The Mower needs oiling and tools need sharpening. Perhaps now is the time to make sure of the security on the Shed. Alarms and Padlocks are for sale in the Community Office.

Ferndown Upper School should be bringing the Spring Essay competition to a close. We are looking forward to finding out what the youngsters there think about their Community and how young people can help to make Ferndown a pleasant place to live.

Theresa May has just announced that there is a Website to be kept up to date by the Police which will list the crimes and anti social behaviour incidents by post code. This is part of the greater transparency drive. Try www.upmystreet.com. There is also the ONS Website where your post code will give you plenty of local information including crime figures in East Dorset. The new site www.police.uk is also available

Local Mums have collected nearly 2000 signatures to a petition asking the County Council not to take away the Safe Crossing Patrol in Church road. Your Committee agreed to write to the County Council also asking that the Patrols in Church Road and Wimborne Road East are retained. Councillor John Wilson replied stating that he too supported the Crossing Patrols in Ferndown and that if the County do withdraw funding for the Patrols then the County would hope that Volunteers would come forward to take on the job.

Our AGM is on Tuesday 12th April. We hope to have a speaker from the C.A.B. We will also be considering requests for grants. Our policy on grants is clear; we support activities which forward our aim of a Safer and caring community especially where young people are concerned.

Chairman Douglas Lock



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TRADERS LIST

Please find enclosed a revised traders list which has been collated to the best of our ability to ensure accuracy. However, it is the responsibility of the traders listed to inform us directly of any changes to their circumstances that may affect the entry detail.

Remember, where discounts are not shown, ask. You could be lucky!

The list is based on recommendations from members as being bona fide and reliable but remember that NW cannot be held responsible for any work carried out that may fall below the standard you expect.

However, the committee should be informed of any complaints regarding workmanship, reliability or professionalism so that we can review their entry. We would also be pleased to receive commendations.

Again I find it necessary to remind members who wish to recommend a trader that I MUST receive it in writing or e-mail, a telephone call giving minimum detail is not enough.

CONCERN ABOUT OUR CHILDREN'S SAFTY

So concerned are the NW committee regarding the retrenchment of Our Lollipop Ladies at major in locations where hundreds of children cross that our Chairman has written to the Chair of DCC:

To John Wilson.

Dear Mr Wilson.

The N.W Committee has authorised me to write to you in your capacity as Chair of DCC and local Councillor to express our concern about the possible retrenchment of the Lollipop Ladies crossing patrols.

We believe that there is a real need for the two posts in Church Road and in Wimborne Road East to be retained.

Both these posts serve hundreds of unaccompanied children who need to cross busy roads in order to reach the school complexes in Ferndown. Neither of these two road crossing points near to the schools have safe crossings and Church Road in particular has no other controls over speed at all.

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Whilst we understand that there will be cuts to the county budgets we do believe that the safe crossing of the children must be preserved as a major priority.

I will pass on your reply to the 3000 members households in Ferndown South and West Parley. I do hope that you can give an assurance about this matter.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Lock Chair F.S. and W. Parley N.W.

A response to this letter has been referred to in the Chairman's report (front page)

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The main objective of the Watch is to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the local community. It seeks to help create a caring community, vigilant but not vigilantes, which co-operates with the Police and Safe Neighbourhood Teams.

It provides an information network between police and the residents alerting householders about incidents and suspicious activities and alerting Police about such activities.

It provides information and assistance for home security and thus promotes a stronger sense of security and a raised confidence especially among the more vulnerable members of the community.

One thing is certain Neighbourhood Watch Schemes help to reduce the rate of crime in communities where they flourish.

The whole organisation is run by local volunteers. It needs a commitment by the active members of a few hours in each three months, to keep in touch with neighbours, distribute the magazine and other information and keep alert to crime and anti social behaviour in their locality. With some 3,000 households as members there is always a need for new Volunteers to replace those who move,

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fall ill or retire from active service.

We are a very friendly, caring and committed group and would extend a warm welcome to new volunteers.

Douglas Lock Chairman

Contact Tel 01202 896984 e: lock74@gmail.com

DISTRACTION BURGLARY

This is a distraction burglary message. There have been two cases this quarter of distraction burglaries involving a false story.

Two men called at separate addresses stating that they were from the Water Board and needed the occupant to run their taps to see if blue dye came through the water system. The occupant at one of the properties allowed the males in and one went with her to the kitchen. He turned the tap on and asked the occupant to monitor the water. The other male was going from room to room. This type of distraction has been used in neighbouring areas.

Please do not, under any circumstances, allow people into your home who are using this story. If you receive such a caller at your door please dial 999 as soon as possible. Please keep an active check on elderly neighbours. Further details with regards to these burglaries may follow.

THINK BRIGHT THINK LIGHTS

This is a message from Dorset Police and relates to the area of Ferndown:

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team has launched a campaign called "ThinkBrightThinkLights" this is aimed at educating people in cycle safety to have lights on their bikes. During the months of October 2010 to March 2011 we will be stopping bikes with no lights and issuing cycle defect notices, giving the rider an opportunity to purchase lights rather than pay a fine. The person that is issued the defect notice has 14 days to purchase lights and present them fixed to their bike and a receipt to Ferndown Police Station.

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FROM DORSET POLICE

This is an information message concerning Driver Refresher Courses. The pilot scheme, where courses are free to attend, comes to an end on 31 March 2011. To book your place on one of the free to attend courses email roadsafety@dorsetcc.gov.uk or contact the Road Safety Team on 01305 224558. Thank you.

CRIME CHECK

As previously mentioned by our Chairman, Anyone can now check the crime rate on our streets by going online.

This groundbreaking police web-site is now available and contains detailed crime maps.

It provides a breakdown of figures for towns, neighbourhoods and even individual streets.

Crimes are shown in six categories: anti-social behaviour, vehicle crime, burglary, robbery, violent crime and "other" crime.

The site is also available on mobile phones and it includes information about neighbourhood police.

OK for those with computers or mobile phones, but there are many who do not have access to this technology. So we will do our best to report all the relevant crime information in our locality.

SECTOR MAP CHANGE

Unfortunately we did not have sufficient space in this edition to display the Sector Map and Co-ordinator names and telephone Numbers.

It was therefore decided to put this information into the June Newsletter.

Our apologies for any inconvenience that may have been caused. *Ed.*



Police Report

Communications

The Community Office

e: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

Telephone: 01202 876219

Greetings one and all, it is good to back! As much as I enjoyed “the rest” whilst I was temporarily promoted I did miss the people and the challenges that East Dorset provide on a daily basis. The one thing that made my detachment bearable was the fact that I knew the Section was in very good hands. Therefore I would like to start by registering my sincere thanks to Neil Leat for his sterling efforts in keeping East Dorset on the top of the pile (well if not on the top we are within sight of it).



I know Neil kept you up to date with things and all the changes that are coming about as a result of the comprehensive spending review. I also know that there are many rumours flying around about changes to your local police. All I will say about this is if you want to know the truth...ask your local police! I keep my staff fully updated regarding these matters. I can tell you all with some certainty that you will only benefit from the changes that are being implemented. We are getting more officers here at East Dorset! That’s right, more officers! I intend to keep your Safer Neighbourhood Teams in place and there are no planned reductions of our PCSO’s. I may tweak the manner in which the teams are supervised but the one overriding factor to all these changes is that local policing will not and must not suffer. Inevitably I may have to move resources around to suit demand but plans will always be put in place to ensure no one area suffers as a result. I will make it my business to update your Chairs...so they’ll be the first to know, so to speak.

So how are we doing crime wise? Well in a nutshell we are doing very well. At this time we are showing an overall reduction on all crime of 9.6% (that’s 253 less crimes in real money) and wait for it, an overall reduction of 17.7% (562 less reports) in anti social behaviour. All this has been achieved as a result of the sustained partnerships that we enjoy in East Dorset. There is little doubt of that. One key example of this statement is that I am delighted to say that we have the NHW Group of the year in East Dorset! This is based on support given to policing the local area and was evidenced this year by the many and varied initiatives carried out in West Moors. A big thank you goes out to Roger and the team! In addition we have received huge support from many various partners (both statutory and otherwise) who have helped us provide better youth outreach, more patrols, open days, crime prevention goods and initiatives, a Quad Bike...the list goes on.

All this said here comes the “small print”. **We must not become complacent.** We must still work hard to keep our burglaries down. Breaks to sheds and the like are very much reduced on last year’s figures, but we are seeing a slight rise in dwelling burglaries. Scrap metal theft is rife at the moment and no piece of copper is safe. What can the community do to assist? Well keeping us informed of suspicious activity and unwelcome visitors is the main request. We had some great success late last year with neighbours reporting “jobbers” to us. We were able to arrest and subsequently charge 4 people with fraud offences as a result of your efforts. Only yesterday my esteemed colleague (Inspector Shawn Whitely, from North Dorset) rushed out to arrest two persons who were apparently in the act of stealing scrap metal...again as a result of a call from local residents. Keep the information coming in...and my teams will endeavour to keep you updated as to the results.

Remember try not to leave things on show, close and lock all doors and windows when you are out and tell us about any strange or unwanted visitors to your road. My teams are out there 24 hours a day and are only too happy to investigate and prevent. We would rather do this than work on detecting the crime!

That’s it from me for this edition. Thank you for your continued support and please do not forget the Community Office at the Barrington Centre in Ferndown. It is open 6 days a week between 1000 and 1200 for any of your community and policing needs. There is a vast array of crime prevention advice and equipment at the office and many of the items are available at a substantially reduced price...if not free!

As always your Safer Neighbourhood Teams are here to assist you and where they cannot help...there is always

me...or for the more computer literate you can always try and "Google it". Here's hoping for a peaceful and crime free Spring.



Mike Darkin, East Dorset Section Commander

HEATHERLANDS AND FERNDOWN LINKS REPORT

In February the Government released the Crime Mapper website which is accessible via the www.police.uk website. For the first time residents will be able to check crime statistics in the following categories: burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, violence, other crime and anti social behaviour. You can access a single road and see what has been reported to the police in the previous month. It was decided that a delay of 23 days would be applied to give a measure of protection to the victims of the offence and that the exact location would not be pinpointed. No personal details or house numbers are disclosed, there is also a link to the local Safer Neighbour Team to enable you to send an e-mail to the relevant officers if you have any concerns. You can also receive regular updates about local incidents via the Ringmaster e-mail system; to register simply leave a message on 226026 and I will ensure you get a registration pack.

Across the patch there was a brief but worrying blip in criminal damages in December specifically to fences. Although there were no witnesses to the damage a small group of 12 to 14 year old boys was suspected and visits were made to their parents resulting in an immediate cessation of the offences. Domestic violence still accounts for the vast majority of assaults and several males have either been charged or remain under investigation for their unacceptable behaviour. In a neighbouring patch there was an emerging burglary series which fortunately appears to have ended, the offender/s selected bungalows with two features - easy access to the rear garden and no alarm. We suffered two burglaries, which are not considered to be part of the series. Both attacked premises were unoccupied and were clearly empty, one was under renovation and nothing was taken and the other had been vacant since the owner had been taken into hospital.

Rob and I will be continuing to hold Street Corner meetings; we have enjoyed meeting many householders that we would not usually come into contact with under normal circumstances. The events are publicised via Ringmaster, posters and leaflets, which we deliver just prior to the event.

Julian Humphries PC 1496 Tel: 01202 226026

Wanted

All types of antique furniture, clocks, china, paintings, musical instruments and especially military items, etc

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SCAMS AWARENESS MONTH

February was the OFT's Scams Awareness Month.

Consumers losing money to scams is a significant problem in the UK. Scams can take the form of bogus and fraudulent offers sent by post, phone, email or text.

Nearly half of the UK population has been targeted by a scam. More than three million adults – 6.5% of the UK population – fall victim to scams, losing a total of £3.5 billion every year!

This month-long campaign aimed to increase awareness and understanding of scams to help reduce the number of people falling victim to them.

Scams can be carried out over the phone, through emails, through the post or in person – so it is important for members to constantly be on their guard to scams.

If you are in any doubt over the legitimacy of someone or some correspondence that invites them to part with money, personal or bank details then you should not part with their money or details. Remember, if something seems too good to be true then it probably is:

Scam artists may ask victims to:

- Send money up front
- Give them their bank details
- Ring a premium rate number
- Buy something in order to get a prize.

They may also offer the victim something for nothing, such as:

- Exclusive entry into a scheme that's a sure-fire way to make money
- The chance to join an investment scheme that will make huge amounts of money.
- A way to earn easy money by helping them get large sums of money out of their country.
- The winning prize from a draw or lottery that you haven't even entered.
- Advertising in publications that don't even exist.

You also need to be aware of distraction burglars trying to take money or valuables by gaining entry into your home and distracting you while stealing cash, credit cards or valuables like jewellery.

Distraction burglars often work in pairs so that one of them distracts you while the other steals your valuables.

Distraction burglars often target elderly and vulnerable members, and they may claim to be representatives from companies such as the gas, water or electricity board.

In order to help keep members informed of reported scams taking place across the county, Dorset Police runs the Scam Busters webpage which is accessible from the front of the website.

If you've been the victim of a scam you should report it immediately. You can report a non-urgent crime to Dorset Police by calling 01202 or 01305 222 222.



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LATEST UPDATES

Dorset Police are warning members to be on their guard against a possible telephone scam where victims are told that they have over paid on their council tax and that they are entitled to claim back a significant sum of money.

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COMMUNICATIONS

- Message from Dorset Police: We would like to ask all members to be mindful of any neighbours who may be vulnerable during the current cold weather. Please take the time to check on them and see if you can be of any assistance. Also, do not accept any offers of work from people calling door to door, offering to clear snow off your drive and pathways. If you see anything suspicious or have any concerns please contact Dorset Police on 01202 222 222 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you.
- Please be aware there are burglars active in the East Dorset area. At present there are at least two individuals or teams each working in different styles and with varying success. In the past fortnight there have been several clumsy attempts at break-ins in the West Moors area leading to lots of damage and hasty searches within the dwelling. The items stolen are of negligible value and the properties selected were all bungalows without alarms. Recently in Wimborne a more professional job took place, the offender/s used a garden spade left in the garden to force the front door after placing the households wheelie bin in the drive to give an early warning of the rightful occupants return. Jewellery was stolen and the offence took place between 6 and 7 pm
Please consider an alarm and remove garden tools even if you are only going out for a short while.
- A male has attended a location in Church Road, Ferndown, and has called un-announced at a property. The male stated that the occupant was entitled to a large amount of money as compensation for building works, to claim this money the occupant first had to pay a large deposit. Any calls received of this nature should be reported to the Police immediately via 999. Please ensure to make a note of the caller and any vehicles including registration plate and direction of travel.
- For the residents of Ferndown. In just 4 hours there was 3 burglaries where bogus water board officials gained entry. The offenders are described as white male with Irish accents wearing a black zipped jacket, one being short and fat. Please ensure that your watch members are aware of such offences, and not to let anyone in to their property without authentic identification. Any official will accept a polite "no".

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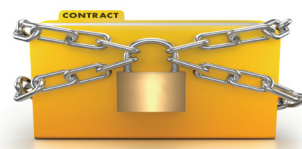
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Or mvtbuilders@hotmail.com**

GENERAL

- This quarter there was a burglary in Christchurch Road, near the Curlew Public House. A male has been arrested and charged with this offence.
- A burglary occurred in Ham Lane, Ferndown. An elderly male was at home when 4 white males gained access to his property via a rear door. An untidy search was made and a quantity of cash stolen. All four males were around the same age and it is unknown if transport was used. Before answering the door to callers it is always important to check on the caller's identity either by looking out of a window that can observe the front door or the use of a door chain. If you have any information about this crime please contact Bournemouth C.I.D on 222222
- A male called un-announced at a property. The male stated that the occupant was entitled to a large amount of money as compensation for building works, to claim this money

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the occupant first had to pay a large deposit. Any calls received of this nature should be reported to the Police immediately via 999. Please ensure to make a note of the caller and any vehicles including registration plate and direction of travel.

- Two cases of Distraction Burglaries involving a false story. Two men have called at separate addresses stating that they were from the Water Board and needed the occupant to run their taps to see if blue dye came through the water system. The occupant at one of the properties allowed the males in and one went with her to the kitchen. He turned the tap on and asked the occupant to monitor the water. The other male was going from room to room. Please do not, under any circumstances, allow people into your home who are using this story. If you receive such a caller at your door please dial 999 as soon as possible. Please keep an active check on elderly neighbours.
- This quarter there was a break in to a bungalow under renovation on Fairways. Nothing was stolen in this instance but please be aware that an apparently empty property is an attractive opportunity for thieves looking for tools and/or copper piping from central heating systems. Inexpensive alarms are available at the Barrington Centre which is open weekdays 10 to 12.
- During December a shed break occurred in the Ashley Heath area. Please ensure all sheds and outhouses are secure and any valuables are not left in view. I would like to remind you that if you are in need of any crime prevention advice or looking at buying shed alarms please visit the Barrington Centre Police Office situated in Penny's Walk where the office is staffed by friendly Police volunteers.
- This quarter a burglary occurred in Ham Lane Ferndown. An elderly male was at home when 4 white males gained access to his property via a rear door. An untidy search

Dorset Police **WORKING TOGETHER PACT**
Partners and Communities Together

Join us at:
A FREE Community Crime Prevention Event

at
**St Marys Church Hall,
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on
Thursday 24 March 2011

10am - Trickster the bogus caller musical
George an elderly gentleman who has become the victim of a distraction burglar. Once a proud soldier, we follow George as he battles with being conned and beats the bogus callers.

2pm - Scambuster musical
Meet Sydney the victim of a rogue tarmac tradesman and Mary who thinks she's won the holiday of a lifetime. Guaranteed to entertain and amuse, the key safety messages come through loud and clear.

Pick one or join us at both entertaining and informative musical productions highlighting the dangers of distraction burglaries and rogue traders...

...Following each production you can meet your local community service agencies to ask for advice or let them know about any issues or worries that you have.

A fun and informative day
Light refreshments will be provided

Need help with Transport?
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or email: tim.travers@dorset.pnn.police.uk

For further information contact the Ferndown Central Safer Neighbourhood Team on **01202 222222** or **07825 521752**.



was made and a quantity of cash stolen. All four males were around the same age and it is unknown if transport was used. Before answering the door to callers it is always important to check on the caller's identity either by looking out of a window that can observe the front door or the use of a door chain. If you have any information about this crime please contact Bournemouth C.I.D on 222222.

- Late January there was a break in at the Tiegla Tiles shop in West Parley. The burglars gained entry by climbing a flat roof and then via a top window. Nothing was stolen other than £40 cash and a charity box.

AGM

**The Ferndown South & West Parley
Neighbourhood Watch
Annual General Meeting
will be held on**

Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm

**At St Mark's Church,
Main Hall, West Parley**