

Chairman's report

It is with great regret that I have to announce the resignation of our treasurer, John Pilch. John has done a wonderful job for several years and has seen the Watch get onto a sound financial footing.

This does mean that we need a new Treasurer and the Committee would be delighted to hear from any member who is willing to take on this position. If you are interested please call me on 01425 476558.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter that we have a new Membership Secretary, many thanks to Paul for the excellent job he did. Thanks also to Viv who stood in while we were looking to fill this post. Viv will now look after the vacant Treasurer's post until we find a replacement.

At our recent committee meeting the issue of speeding came up again. This is a difficult problem to tackle as the police can only take action if they witness the event. For this reason Speedwatch is our most effective tool—but it requires the help of residents who are prepared to participate in roadside checks with our police officers. At present, only a few residents have volunteered for Speedwatch duties. This means it is not always possible to arrange a suitable time when both police officers and enough of our volunteers are available. So please consider joining our small band and contact me.

Brian Frecknall 01425 476558

Home Watch signs

Home Watch coordinators can contact me if any signs in their area need attention. Typically this could be cutting back of foliage or undergrowth, cleaning, re-fixing or even repositioning signs in a more suitable place where circumstances have changed.

I would therefore be grateful for your co-operation and can be contacted by telephone at the number below—thank you.

Norman Walters 01425 480731

This is a



Area

New membership Secretary

Your Home Watch committee is delighted to announce that we have a new membership Secretary—Keith Pegram who succeeds Paul Nixon. Keith is a street coordinator and is already beavering away setting up the systems on his computer and officially takes charge after our AGM on 8 April.

Paul, who is in the process of moving house, has done a sterling job for several years and will be missed by all. But I'm sure you join the committee in wishing him a successful move and a long and quieter life without us!

We are still short of street coordinators, with around 15 roads being handled by committee member, all of whom are already coordinators in their own streets. So if you are a member who has some spare time perhaps you could consider becoming a coordinator in a road near you.

Being a coordinator is not an arduous task: it involves delivery of four newsletters per year and collecting the annual subscription. We have various systems already in place to make the job as easy as possible, including using drop-off points for subs collections.

Our aim is to never let a road fall into abeyance because a coordinator has retired. So if you feel you could help us we would be extremely grateful. Please contact Keith whose contact details are on page 4 or me.

Brian Frecknall 01425 476558

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Community matters

St Ives Village Post Office

The Post Office on the service road, which has recently changed hands, is very much up and running and is open on Sundays. Some local residents have been of the opinion that it might close. The new owners have vested a great deal of time, effort and money into this venture and it's only with the residents' support and custom that the Post Office will survive.

The well-stocked shop, now a very light and airy convenience store, has undergone complete refurbishment which includes an off licence, large cold cabinet and freezer cabinet. This is in addition to newsagent services, bread and rolls from a local bakery, an excellent variety of foods, confectionery and greetings cards for all occasions. Residents may rest assured that this competitively priced convenience store is well able to cater for their needs, especially if unexpected visitors arrive. Open until 7.30pm daily and on Sunday until 1.00pm.

Newsletters and Traders List

Both of these Home Watch publications are delivered to every member of our watch by their local street coordinator in most cases. However, both are also now available on our village website:

2saints.org.uk

2 SAINTS

Home Watch & Community Website

So next time you realise you've thrown your copy away in error (or a fit of spring cleaning!) just go to our website where you can read it again or download a copy to print.

Tip—bookmark our website page in your browser

John Duffin

Many of you will have known John Duffin, who was a staunch member of Home Watch until he died on 22 November 2016. John was a street coordinator until a just over a year before his death and in previous years had been our membership secretary for a considerable time. When we were looking for a new permanent Chairman John ably stood in as Acting Chairman. John embodied the heart and soul of Home Watch and will be sadly missed by his wife Tuula, his family and all those who knew him. Rest in peace John.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome but may be edited or shortened. Photos of suitable quality, are reproduced when space permits. Any views or opinions expressed in this publication, unless specifically stated otherwise, are those of the writer.

Village Hall news

Hello everybody,

The hall is now reaching the end of its refurbishment and the last job, the fitting of new curtains in the main hall, has just been completed.

We will be taking a break from all the hard work we have done over the last year. Thanks must go to all who have willingly given their time and worked on many of the issues that were involved. Also, thanks to the committee who have given their time, for which they are not paid, without moaning or complaining and voluntarily give their time so freely.

Anyone who has a spare hour who would come on to the committee meeting once a month to help with some of the jobs that we have to do would be received with open arms.

Our next event is a quiz night at 7pm on 29 April—Barry and Margaret are compiling the quiz and there will be fish and chips and a licensed bar. The final event of the year will be a pig roast (hopefully in September) when we will be cooking the pig and carving it ourselves, so it will be sliced not pulled. We are hoping for a good attendance to these events.

Once again if you are available for a couple of hours or less on Thursday once a month we would be grateful for your input.

Ann Warman 01425 476319

★ WII ★ DARTS ★ TABLE TENNIS ★
★ XBOX ★
★ AIR HOCKEY ★
★ TABLE FOOTBALL ★
★ BOARD GAMES ★
★ POOL TABLE ★
★ TUCK SHOP ★

Village youth club
Wednesday evenings
6:30 - 9:00pm
age 10+

Friday afternoons
(1st and 3rd weeks only)
3:30 - 5:00pm
age 8 - 11

Both nights are £1
Located at the rear of the Village Hall,
opposite the Scout Hut

Local crime statistics

Every March, June, September and December, when your Home Watch committee meet, members of our Neighbourhood Policing Team attend to listen to our current issues and give the latest crime statistics for our area.

At the suggestion of one of our street coordinators we will publish those statistics in each edition of the newsletter—unless you tell us not to! So here is the report we received from Julian on 14 March:

After a good period of decline in the statistics and in keeping with the experiences of other police forces, there has been a slight rise in our crime statistics.

Julian gave the following information:

- *A dwelling burglary near Woolsbridge Road on 10 March – although thieves had broken in, the residents have not found anything to be missing. Often burglars go out with specific target items to steal and it's assumed that in this case they didn't find anything they wanted*

- *There was a very recent burglary in West Moors – the resident had left for an emergency dental appointment and dropped the Yale catch but did not secure other locks. There was no sign of breaking and entering however, the contents of the bedroom had clearly been disturbed. Probably a simple coat hanger or similar was used via the letterbox to flick the Yale catch open to gain access*
- *The norm is 10 shed break-ins to 1 house break-in so the police continue to advise all to visit the Community Office to purchase shed alarms, etc*
- *There have been 10 other thefts, principally to shops, one within our area, all were cases of leaving without paying*
- *There have been 5 cases of criminal damage*
- *There have been 9 unattended motor vehicle thefts*

The police reports from our Inspector and Neighbourhood Policing Team can be found on pages 7 and 8 as usual

Heatherlands Short Mat Bowls Club



We are a local friendly club that meet on Wednesdays at 7pm, Fridays at 9.30am and Sundays at 7.30pm. Short mat bowls is a game suitable for all ages and abilities and is played 12 months of the year. Bowls and tuition will be available at the club, you will need flat shoes or slippers or you can play in socks.

We meet in St Leonards & St Ives Village Hall
Braeside Road, St Leonards

Either telephone KEN LEVER on 01202 570461 or STEVE WHITE on 01202 920130 in the first instance so that we can make sure someone is there to greet you, or just call in on either day and you will be made most welcome.

A few days in Brighton

I have come to Brighton for a few days, it is such a gay old town, there are many shops to see, I have done so much walking, thank goodness it's not far from the sea.

I wonder where the nudist beach is, and is it really true? Well don't get your hopes up, they won't look twice at you.

I thought it would be nice and relaxing, to have a walk along the pier, when I noticed all the warnings about food that disappears.

Well I could not believe it, it was like that film *The Birds*, all the seagulls were hovering around, ready to make a kill, and believe me they mean business, it certainly takes no skill.

Here they are already come to make a dive, and it's no good trying to save your ice cream, you are lucky to stay alive.

So I thought I won't be beaten, it is now daggers drawn— it's either them or me. I will buy another ice cream, and have a paddle, I should be safer in the sea. Who are I trying to kid, there is one up there already with his beady eyes on me?

Editor's note: This poem was sent to me by Daphne one of our Home Watch members, it arrived on a grey winter's day and brought a smile to my face!

If you are a budding poet, or just a lover of poetry, let me know, if space permits and content is short and suitable, I will try to find an occasional slot to slip it in.
Viv Frecknall

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has a dedicated team working to reduce the risk of fire in the home, enabling residents to stay as safe as possible. This team is made up of Safe and Well Advisors, volunteers and firefighters.

Did you know?

- You're four times more likely to die in a fire if you don't have a working smoke alarm
- On average, 21 people die each year because the battery in their smoke alarm was flat or missing at the time of the fire
- Around half of all home fires are caused by cooking accidents
- Three fires a day are started by candles
- Every five days, someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette
- Faulty electrics cause around 6,000 fires in homes across the country every year

With these statistics in mind, we'd like to undertake a Safe and Well check for you, which is a totally free service offered by Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.



We'd like to arrange a visit to you in your home, at a time convenient to you, to see what we can do together to make you safer.

We will fit free smoke alarms where required and offer advice to make you and your family safer and healthier in your home. The appointment normally lasts about one hour and covers topics such as:



- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support you may need

We can also have a conversation with you around improving your health and wellbeing, to identify any further support.

Our aim is for you to:

- know the risks within the home
- know what to do to reduce or prevent these risks
- create an escape plan in case a fire breaks out
- Have working smoke alarms

To arrange a Safe and Well visit, please call 0800 038 2323 or visit our website:

dwfire.org.uk



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

Committee contact details

ELECTED MEMBERS:

CHAIRMAN	Brian Frecknall	v.frecknall@btopenworld.com	01425 476558
VICE CHAIRMAN	Pat Tester	pat_brian@talktalk.net	01425 483579
MINUTES SECRETARY	Pat Sullivan	msullivan038@gmail.com	01425 478162
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EDITOR	Viv Frecknall	vivfrecknall@btopenworld.com	01425 476558
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TRADERS LIST	Elaine Smith	elaineshomewatch@58lions.co.uk	01425 461022
HOME WATCH SIGNS	Norman Walters	4 St Ives Wood (no email)	01425 480731
WINTER COORDINATOR	Bob Pugh	janetbbpgh@btinternet.com	01425 472029

NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES:

Parish Councillors	Barry Goringe and Alan Davies		
East Dorset Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team	PC Julian Humphries Adam Fitzwalter James Marsh	Julian.Humphries@dorset.pnn.police.uk Adam.Fitzwalter@dorset.pnn.police.uk James.Marsh@dorset.pnn.police.uk	When on duty: 101

Community Café

I hope this finds you all well as can be expected. Sadly, some of our regular members have been away with different ailments, we wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to having them back in the fold.



We started the New Year with our cheque presentations. A £2,000 cheque was presented to Malcolm Bentley from

Sailability on 11 January and he gave our members an interesting talk on the work they do.

On 18 January, Caroline Goddin came along from the Eurasma Centre which is attached to The Bishop of



Winchester School. Caroline leads work at the Centre, helping children dealing with Asperger's and autism. She was over the

moon with her £2,000 cheque and couldn't wait to get back to the head teacher with her 'shopping list' for the Centre to help these children. She gave us an informative and very interesting talk on the difficulties the children have to overcome and the affect it has on their families.

You will have already worked out that last year through the coffee mornings and all your generous support we raised £4,000.

This was a tremendous effort and has provided support to these organisations in their work for the disabled and those with learning and social disabilities. A big thank you to you all.

This year our fundraising is for leukaemia (Bournemouth Hospital) and our own village hall. The hall is the hub of our small community and at some time, whether it be attending the clubs or social events, we all benefit from the building. We are lucky to have such a place on our doorsteps so we have chosen to help a little towards the maintenance and upkeep this year.

Before closing I should like to say a big thank you to the coffee morning team: Beryl, Michelle and Peter (who helps with the donkey work setting out the tables and chairs), Janet and Pat (our raffle queen) and not forgetting Katie and Christine who are always there to lend a hand and step in when things get a bit hectic and when someone is away.

Unfortunately I had a bit of a setback in January and was unable to attend the coffee morning but these ladies (oops, sorry Peter) kept the coffee morning going in their usual efficient and cheerful manner for which I am very grateful.

Until next time, best wishes to you all and keep well.

Barbara Pilch 01202 861821

Cyber crime



Britons are not applying the same level of security online as they do offline in their houses despite the increased risk of cyber crime. While 82% of

households in Britain have double locks or deadlocks, only 32% follow the latest government advice to use three random words to create a strong password and on average only 52% regularly download the latest software or app updates.

Latest figures from the Office of National Statistics show that cyber crime was one of the most common offences committed in 2016, with an estimated two million cyber crime incidents compared to 686,000 domestic burglary offences.

According to the National Cyber Security Centre, a part of GCHQ, the best ways to protect yourself from cyber crime are to:

- Always download the latest software and app updates, they contain vital security upgrades which help protect your devices from viruses and hackers. The most common reason respondents across the UK gave for not downloading software updates was that it takes too long. In reality, it only takes a few minutes compared to the time it can take to recover from a cyber hack.
- Use three random words to create a strong password. Weak passwords can allow hackers to use victims' email to gain access to many of their personal accounts, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft and fraud.

A recent victim of hacking said; "The whole experience was very distressing. Emails were being sent from my account to my contacts which I had no control over. It caused a great deal of embarrassment and took days to sort out."

Ferndown Police Community Office

The Ferndown Police Community Office is located in the Barrington Centre in Penny's Walk. It is operated by police volunteers and is open daily (except Sunday) from 10:00 until 12:00. Please come in and see the wide variety of security devices and leaflets that we have.

Key safes now available



A few years ago we sold a key safe. This would be fixed to an outside wall, a spare key kept in it and the combination number given to people who would need access to your house (carers, delivery, relations, etc). We stopped selling these items as they did not have police approval. There is now, however, a police approved version available and we have a supply at £35 each (pictured). A Neighbourhood Watch member is available to fit the safe for a small charge.

Card defenders



We also have card defenders that protect your contactless credit/debit cards from skimmers stealing the card data. These are available at 50p each.

Cycle Bells

To enable you to be heard when cycling we have cycle bells at £1.50 in various colours complete with a clip on device.



During office hours we can be contacted on 01202 876219, but please be aware that this number should not be used instead of 999 (when a crime is being committed or life is in danger) or 101 for other incidents. Or contact us by email:

ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

The Community Office has a website which has details of all the services and products:

ferndowncommunityoffice.org

Fly tipping—the householder's responsibility



Fly tipping has always been a problem for councils up and down the country and recent weeks has seen a huge increase locally. Rubbish has been tipped in the quiet

countryside areas we are all surrounded by. It is unsightly, a hazard to children and wildlife but also ultimately the cost of the clean-up eventually results in an increase in our council tax.

But what most householders are not aware of is that they have a responsibility to ensure licensed traders dispose of any rubbish removed from their homes and gardens responsibly. All the tradesmen we use, be it builders, plumbers, carpet fitters, gardeners, fencers and tree surgeons, must hold a valid licence from the Environment Agency which allows them to not only carry the waste but also dispose of it at any of the commercial waste transfer sites in the area. In fact, any tradesman working in or outside our home, no matter what type of rubbish is generated, must hold an upper tier waste carriers licence.

A potential prison sentence of up to five years and a fine of up to £50,000 awaits the unlicensed trader, but the householder can also face a fine of up to £5,000 for failing to take proper precautions to ensure the tradesmen they employ are licensed and will dispose of the rubbish responsibly. So even though the law considers the fly tipper legally responsible, the householder faces a substantial fine too.

So what steps can you take to ensure you are employing a legitimate business? Any licensed trader will happily produce their licence for you. It will contain their name and address, the licence number and it will be valid for up to three years. It will be in the form of an A4 size licence or a credit card size.

Check the company has a landline number, not just a mobile - the same applies to leaflets delivered to your door. Use caution if employing the services of anyone who just advertises on social media. In a recent Daily Telegraph report the Environment Agency referred to these as 'Facebook Flytippers'.

Finally, legitimate waste disposal is costly, so be prepared to pay those disposal charges and beware of anyone offering to dispose of your rubbish at cheaper prices than anyone else does. Remember, if it sounds cheaper than other quotes you've had, you could end up with a very costly fine. When the unlicensed person is stopped by the Environment Agency or caught fly tipping, they will be asked for the details of the household the waste came from and then they will come to you. As ever, ignorance of the law is no excuse. The growing number of fly tips locally shows there are a large number of unlicensed traders in the area, so beware.

If we all take responsibility for our waste and be prepared to do our own checks, we could eliminate the problem countrywide.

Neighbourhood Policing Team report



Julian Humphries

I am pleased to report that we are still seeing low crime figures for the area, with no notable increases in any of the major crime areas, with the exception of non-dwelling breaks, where unfortunately certain businesses have become repeat victims to thieves. Since my last report two dwelling burglaries

took place in the St Leonards and St Ives areas and these took place in daylight to premises without house alarms. We have recently seen a burglary whereby the victims had sensibly placed their valuables in a safe but neglected to secure it to a wall, allowing the offenders to force it open at their leisure. The burglars' favourite entry point remains the rear of the property at ground level, the most successfully option being entry via patio doors. The Police Community Office in the Barrington Centre have several locks and alarms designed to enhance the security of patio doors and are well worth considering, especially if you do not have a house alarm which remains one of the most effective deterrents. We have seen a total of nine non-dwelling breaks take place over the past three months, mostly to commercial premises, with high value power tools being the targeted items.

During the same period, 19 frauds were carried out or attempted in our area. These varied from telephone scams to cold callers convincing people to accept garden or tarmacking services on their doorstep. To try to educate the community about the dangers of engaging with these people two Door Step Awareness days were organised by PCSO James Marsh and held at the library and Parish offices in February in conjunction with a Trading Standards initiative. We categorise the dangers on the doorstep into two types of criminal activity; the first is the distraction burglar who uses a pretence to gain access to your property. They tend to target more vulnerable victims and gain access to the property they intend to steal from by pretending to be from utility service providers such as water, gas or electricity. They may also trick their way in with requests to use the toilet or look for a lost dog in your garden. They often work in pairs and while one does the distraction the other, unseen, carries out a search of your house for valuables. Fortunately this type of crime is rare. Most common are the rogue traders. They operate in complete defiance of Trading Standards legislation. Again, they target older, more vulnerable households with offers of work. One approach is to point out a fault with the

roof or chimney, another is to offer garden work. The common theme is that it can be done immediately for cash at vastly inflated prices. The offenders offer services such as power washing driveways, felling trees and tarmacking driveways. They never offer the statutory cooling off period, a written quote or any other paperwork. These are all offences and prosecutions can be brought against persons trading in this manner. Our advice is to never accept work from a cold caller, to obtain quotes for any work you need done from reputable traders. It's worth noting that just because their leaflets state they are on 'CheckaTrade' it probably isn't true. You can visit **buywithconfidence.gov.uk** or call **0345 404 05 06** to find an approved tradesperson. Please never feel pressured to accept their offer of work. Nothing needs to be done urgently and if you are worried for yourself or a neighbour call the police on 101 if the offenders have left or 999 if they are on the premises and have refused to leave.

The message regarding telephone scams is quite clear. Please do not engage with anyone who offers a prize or tells you to switch on your computer and download a piece of software. It is, without doubt, an attempt to take your hard earned money. Many people get tricked into switching on their computer and following the instructions of someone pretending to be from one of the large software companies. Once done the operator at the other end can remotely take over your computer and effectively hold you to ransom. Please take care of your neighbours and if you feel they are at risk we are always available for any advice. My team and I would rather see someone before they have been a victim than see the upset afterwards.

**PC Julian Humphries and
PCSOs Adam Fitzwalter and James Marsh**

**Medical assistance
OUT-OF-HOURS NUMBER**

Dorset and Hampshire patients

RING 111

*If the patient deteriorates
before a responder arrives*

RING 999

Eastern Neighbourhood Police Inspector update



As spring approaches, many will begin the endless list of jobs that have built up over the winter, which often includes maintenance of properties. East Dorset remains a very safe place to live and work but there has been an increase in breaks to garages, sheds and vehicles. Also, tools have been stolen.

Being a victim or witness to a crime can be distressing and traumatic, so Dorset Police have created a victims bureau dedicated to providing help and support.

Our Rural Crime team, led by Verwood Neighbourhood Police, has organised several proactive operations recently, some of which resulted in custodial sentences for the offenders. PS Nick Lee from the team has stated that it is often difficult to return items to their owners due to the lack of serial numbers being recorded or identifiable marks and recommends that you take the time to record serial numbers. Dorset Police are working together with **immobilise.com.uk** where property details can be recorded by owners and searched by the police to locate victims of crime.

We should never become complacent when deterring crime and I would suggest this is an ideal opportunity to assess your home and vehicle security.

Phone and computer scams across Dorset remains a priority, with often those that are the most vulnerable amongst us targeted. If you think you've been a victim of fraud of any description or someone you know may have, please contact Action Fraud on **actionfraud.police.uk**. If a crime is in progress call the emergency number 999.

If you believe a member of your community is vulnerable, please take the time to bring it to the attention of someone that can help - this can be a relative, GP, social services, Age Concern or the Police.

Advice on all the above and a lot more can be found on the Dorset Police web site **dorset.police.uk** including where police-approved security items at discounted prices can be obtained through the Ferndown Community Office, who helped and supported 2,739 people during 2016.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy 2017.

Inspector Steve Yeoman

Computer Café

As a BT customer for line rental and broadband I've recently signed up for BT's new service called BT Call Protect—which is free! We've certainly noticed a big reduction in the number of nuisance calls we now receive and with the ability to blacklist callers over time the number should reduce even further.

For those of you who use Windows PCs there is a new Windows 10 major update on its way. As always our recommendation is to install this as soon as possible, remembering to take a back up of (at least) your important files, and at best to make an ISO which is a complete back up of your PC onto a stick or DVD. If you need help with that pop in and see us, or if you use a laptop, bring it in and we will help you through the process as painlessly as possible!

Every week, without fail, we see at least one laptop that is running very slowly, has been affected by ransomware or in the owners words 'is doing something odd'. Even we can fall prey to these problems, so we have an armoury of recommended malware protection and resolution software, which we use on our machines and can install on yours.

All of them are free software and a favourite list of our favourites at present (apart from a strong anti-virus program) include:

- Malwarebytes Anti Malware
- Malwarebytes Anti Exploit
- ADW Cleaner (all free from malwarebytes.com)

As far as anti-virus software is concerned we have all used AVAST free (from avast.com) for many years as it is consistently in the top 5 of all major AV programs only beaten into 3rd or 4th place each time by the paid options such as Kaspersky, Norton, and ESET.

Apple users—you too can become a victim, although current thinking is that malware protection software is not required, you can fall prey to email scams now that they are so sophisticated. Roger, our Apple mentor has a simple to follow system on his website:

rogertech.uk

Then click the link to Silver Surfer Training, scroll down the page to the Resources section, finally click on the Silver Surfer—email scam check link—and follow the instructions!

