

Chairman's report

I am writing this shortly before Christmas, as yet another financial year ends for our Watch on 31 December. For the first time in several years our membership has dropped this year, to the point where we will need to consider increasing the subs from their usual £2. We will not be doing that for the 2023 subs year which starts at the beginning of January, but it is likely that subs will increase for the 2024 year.

Membership is dropping as we lose coordinators and are unable to find replacements for them. This means in turn that some roads get removed from the Watch as there is no support for them. Despite regular reminders appearing in every edition of this newsletter we still are not getting enough supporters.

At the same time printing costs are increasing due to paper prices rising.

The good news is that we are now able to run fundraising events again—the latest was the Quiz Night on 26 November which was a resounding financial success. As you will see the next Quiz Night is being arranged by the Village Hall and proceeds will help them to keep their costs down as well. We hope to see you there!

Brian Frecknall

QUIZ NIGHT

25 February 2023

7–10 pm

**St Leonards and St Ives Village Hall
 Braeside Road
 BH24 2PH**

With light supper, cash bar and raffle

**Tickets will be available from
 15 January to 15 February
 Marie mariesflshall@yahoo.com or
 01425 475733**

**More details will be available from
stleonardshall.org.uk**

**Proceeds in aid of
 St Leonards and St Ives Village Hall
 Charity number 270967**

Medical assistance

OUT-OF-HOURS NUMBER

Dorset and Hampshire patients

RING 111

***If the patient deteriorates before
 a responder arrives***

RING 999

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Community matters

Here's a thought

As a geriatric with health problems that require me to keep warm, I have a keen interest in the power situation and I ponder.

If we all accede to the government request to be economic with the power and fuel we consume there will be no need to produce or import at the current level.

Inevitably this will lead to our power generation system under performing and some stations being temporarily closed down. At such short notice it will be impossible to defray the costs so these will need to be absorbed.

So, this is the conundrum ... we are good conscientious citizens and are economic with the power we consume, so less will be required, the unit cost must increase despite the talk of price caps, etc.



However, if we are selfish and continue to use as much power as we want, our individual costs will be high and we've been warned there will be blackouts.

I don't have the answer, but I do have a few ideas.

- For instance, we could ban cyclists from riding on roads, outside of the towns where there is no off-road path they can use. This would avoid the queues of vehicles, travelling in low gear, burning fossil fuel or running their batteries down while they wait to overtake.
- Reduce the national upper road speed limit to 55mph to save fuel.
- Tighten the rules and the checks on delivery vehicles with engines left running.
- Finally encourage the BBC not to broadcast popular programmes, such as Match of the Day, late in the evening. This would encourage thousands of homes to turn the heating and lighting off and retire to bed much earlier!

Contentious maybe, but I always am.

DEL

Contributions to Community News are always welcome but are subject to being edited or shortened. Photographs are only reproduced when of suitable quality and when space permits. Any views or opinions expressed in this publication unless specifically stated otherwise are those of the writer.

Are you the one?

There is a particular issue with one anti-social dog owner who has a regular habit of throwing used poo bags into the shrubbery near the gate into Lions Hill Way lane, that leads from Lions Lane down to Lions Hill and Lions Farm.

Today, I have retrieved **eight** used purple coloured bags from that area and in the past 2-3 years I have retrieved similarly discarded bags regularly. I believe it to be the same dog owner causing the issue; coincidentally the purple bags are actually nappy sacks from Waitrose as I use them for my own dog.

It totally baffles me as to why someone does the right thing about picking up their dog's mess but then throws it away in such a ridiculous anti-social manner causing unsightly plastic pollution. Leaving poo bags is a littering offence. Here's just one picture from today's walk. Please take your bags home or place them in public litter bins. Better still, as approved by the rangers and dog warden—just **stick and flick** out of harms way—no bag necessary!



Community Café

Come along and join us on Wednesday mornings, to meet up with friends, old and new, for a good old natter!

It's every Wednesday 9:45 to 11:45am, everyone is welcome.

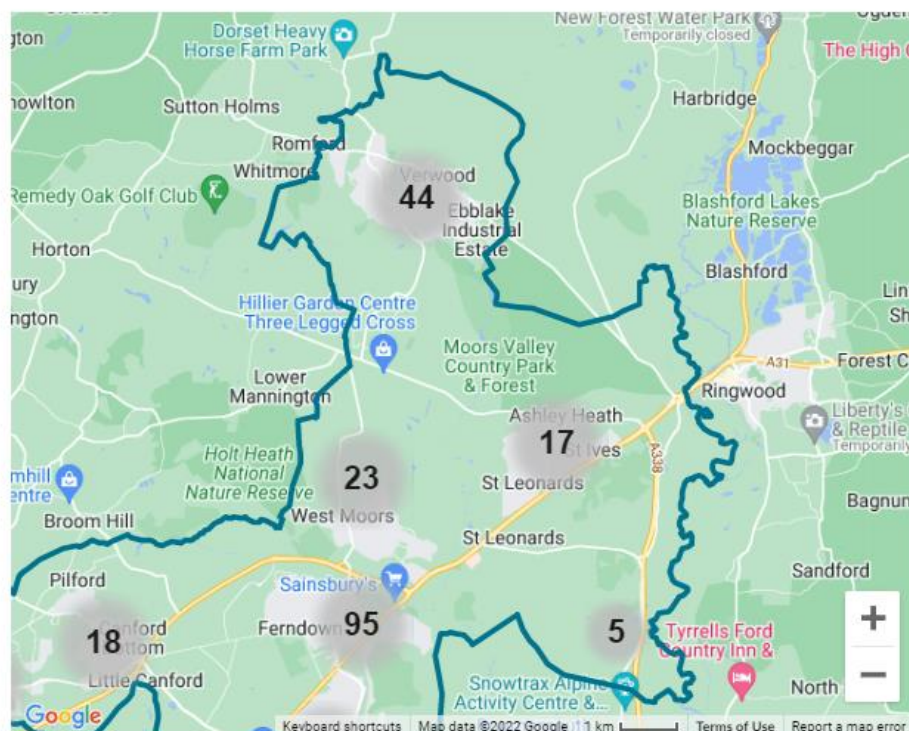
We have a small weekly raffle to raise funds for our chosen charities for this year which is Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance and Helpful Hounds.

You'll find us in the annexe.



We look forward to welcoming you

Crime statistics



All Crimes (316)

October 2022

[View crime definitions](#)

[Download area crime data](#)

Our area is part of East Dorset Urban NPT, you can find lots of information regarding:

- * Local crime statistics and interactive map.
- * Stop and search locations.
- * Statistics.
- * Details of your local team.
- * Our policing priorities.
- * Meetings and event

The map above shows the latest crime levels which were recently published showing the data for the month of October 2022.

To get further insights go to **police.uk** and enter your postcode, making sure you do not select Ringwood as that is the Hampshire force.

You will then be in the East Dorset Urban Overview section of the website.

[Overview](#)

Select the Crime map option to get the above map. If you now click on any of the 'hotspots' which are the numbers on the map you can drill down from that local area (e.g. 17 in Saint Leonards) and the more you click, the more the map enlarges and shows individual roads.

[Crime map](#)

For Stop and search data use the stop and search button.

[Stop and search](#)

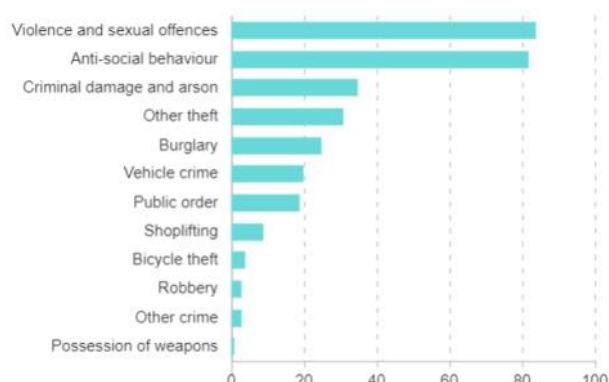
Finally to see graphs displaying the data use the Statistics button.

[Statistics](#)

The graph below shows figures for the 12 months to date of all crimes in the Dorset Urban Region.



Whilst the lower graph shows the number of offences in October, again these were committed in the full Dorset Urban Region.



Trading Standards news

Find a trader and check you can trust them

Sometimes it can be difficult to know where to turn to choose a reliable trader. The following points can help you to select wisely and reduce the possibility of problems.

Use a Trading Standards approved 'Buy with Confidence' trader. Visit buywithconfidence.gov.uk to search for local traders around your postcode, or call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline who can search for you on 0808 223 1133. Ask friends and family to recommend traders too.

Get three quotes in writing before starting work. Unlike an estimate this is a fixed price for the job and should not change. Check that the price is inclusive, that it details all work that you have requested and there is a timescale from start to finish.

Make sure the trader provides a genuine address and landline phone number. Rogue traders can hide behind mobile phone numbers and false addresses. Established traders too are less likely to disappear in the middle of a job.

If the trader is a member of a trade association, they may have a code of practice for extra protection and a service to help resolve disputes. They can give you more details about the trader and protection offered.

Make sure the trader has insurance to cover any damage. If a guarantee will be provided, then check whether this is insurance backed so you are protected even if the trader goes out of business.

Agree not to pay for the work in advance and keep back some money until the work is completed. Pay the full bill when you are happy with the work. Money retained can be used to pay a third party to complete or put work right.

Never agree to go with a trader to the bank or building society to withdraw money, even if this might seem a kind offer, it is usually an aggressive practice under consumer law for a trader to do this.

Pay by credit card and/or Visa where possible, you will often get extra protection under section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act.



Ferndown PROBUS Club

Ferndown, West Moors, Ashley Heath, St. Ives, St. Leonards, West Parley and District

Try something new!

Good food, great company and interesting speakers, just what you've been looking for!

Ferndown PROBUS is a members' club for retired or semi-retired professional men and our aim is to create a positive ambience of fellowship, friendship and fun.

We gather at 12.00 on the first Wednesday of each month at Dudsbury Golf Club, Hotel and Spa, Ferndown, and meetings centre around a two-course lunch followed by the invited speaker's talk.

A coffee morning is held on the second Wednesday of each month for members and their partners to enjoy a sociable get together, with social events arranged throughout the year.

New members will be made most welcome. To find out more please ring the Secretary, Alan Stevens, on 01202 876826, or email:

alan_stevens@talk21.com

More detailed information about the club can be found on our website:

ferndownprobusclub.org

Do you speak Martian?

No nor do we!



So for help, in plain English, with your PC, phone or tablet come into the Computer Café On Fridays between 9 and noon.

You can find us in the Russell Room at St Leonards & St Ives Village Hall BH24 2PH or call 01425 476558 for more information.

English-speaking Martians welcome!

Sergeant Steve Payne's report



I have now been the Sergeant at the Wimborne and Ferndown Neighbourhood Policing Team for almost a year. There have been several high and low points throughout this time and several changes in staff, including officers leaving for other exciting

adventures either within the Police family or on to departures new.

We have welcomed PC 2927 Phil Robbins to the Ferndown team, who has vast knowledge of neighbourhood policing, having been a PCSO for six years and a Neighbourhood Officer in Bournemouth. From next year we are hoping to grow the team with an uplift of police officers. This will allow the team to concentrate of the neighbourhood policing priorities of being more visible, being better connected to the community and will allow us to listen and engage better with our communities.

I understand the importance of the Watch schemes as well as other volunteers within the community that aim to make Dorset a safe county for everyone.

Recently I have been out with the Community Speedwatch Team and saw first hand the excellent work they are completing across the area to make our roads safer for all. I am keen to maximise our volunteers to allow the police to connect better with all our communities.

The NPT have had some excellent results recently. In one incident where we worked with the Rural Crime Team we recovered plant machinery valued between £80,000 and £100,000, this also included recovering two stolen vehicles which we know have been targeting our local rural communities.

Our current winter NPT priority is around acquisitive crime, including burglaries. If you would like any further information on how to protect your home, please visit East Dorset Police Facebook website where there will be regular updates and advice, or please attend any of our local engagements which are listed on the East Dorset Police Facebook page.

If you have any other concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Team online on ferndowncentral-npt@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Home Watch AGM and party!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 22 April in the Main Hall at the Village Hall. This will be followed by a party from 7pm. The meeting usually lasts about 20 minutes and the agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome from Chairman
2. Approve the minutes AGM
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Editor's report
6. Membership Secretary's report
7. Traders List Secretary
8. Election of committee members and Accounts Examiner
9. Any other business and open forum
10. Close of meeting

Tickets will go on sale in March with a closing date of 5 April 2023. We hope to see you there!



IT'S PARTY TIME


**COME AND JOIN US AT
OUR AGM AND PARTY
22 APRIL VILLAGE HALL**

AGM STARTS AT 6PM AND THE PARTY
TAKES OVER FROM 7PM

THERE WILL BE:

- * SUPPER AND DESSERTS
- * LIVE MUSIC
- * CASH BAR
- * RAFFLE

CONTACT MARIE ON 01425 475733 OR
MARIE HOMEWATCH@YAHOO.COM
FROM 1 MARCH PLEASE



We need you...
and many
hands make
light work!

Home Watch vacancies

Committee member vacancies

Did you know that the recent very successful Home Watch Quiz Night was arranged by your hard-working committee who are volunteers? Without these volunteers, events like the quiz would not go ahead for the benefit of the community, and as important, funds would not be available to guarantee the ongoing success of Home Watch.

Unfortunately, like all local organisations there is a shortage of committee members to be able to run the committee efficiently and we are in urgent need of new committee members.

Another reason for the future to be secured is to have enough committee members who will volunteer for key roles such as Chairman, Treasurer, Security, etc. Sadly, none of the committee are getting any younger and may not be able to serve in the years to come. **Without these members, potentially Home Watch could fold as it cannot run without a Chairman, Secretary, Social Secretary, Membership Secretary or Treasurer.**

You could join the committee and help with arranging some of the social events to spread the workload around. The amount of time is minimal and you can tailor the work to suit the amount of time you can spare.

Road coordinator vacancies

Did you know that Home Watch rely on around 75 road coordinators to deliver the quarterly newsletter to about 1550 members and collect the £2 subscriptions from them?

Coordinators also act as a central point for circulating any urgent messages from Home Watch or emergency services.

Great use of this was made in the early days of the Covid pandemic, especially to the elderly or vulnerable members in their road, at a time when advice was being updated or changed almost daily. Many coordinators had their own email circulation list to help them with this.

Coordinators have an average of 20 homes on their list, delivering newsletters four times a year. This takes about half an hour every quarter. The winter distribution also includes the subs collection so this can take about two hours – ***a total of three and a half hours per year***. The annual subscriptions collected are then sent to the Membership Secretary.

Current street vacancies are listed below

If you would like to become a committee member contact:

vivshomewatch@gmail.com

or become a road coordinator, contact

kphomewatch@btinternet.com

Whitfield Park	Beech Lane	Boundary Lane	Post Office Lane
Larch Close	Larch Lane	Wayside Road	Sandy Lane x 2
Hazlemere Drive	Pinewood Road	School Lane	Peverill Close

Many hands make light work!

Village hall news

For anyone who doesn't know about our local village hall St Leonards & St Ives Village Hall, in Braeside Road, is one of the largest village halls in Dorset. We have three rooms, two of which have kitchens, toilets for each room along with two disabled toilets with baby changing units. The main hall also has a large stage which can be rigged for stage lighting.

The hall is run as a charity by a committee of volunteers who meet monthly to manage the building. New committee members are also welcome.

Our income mainly comes from hirers, but of course there is always a lot of maintenance work to be done on the hall as it nearly 50 years old and so we need to look at other sources of generating income.

We have been lucky over the last few years in receiving grants to help us with the major repairs and renovation needed to keep the hall in good condition.

One of the ways that we look to raise funds is by having fund-raising events.

Everyone enjoys a quiz night, and we have one booked for Saturday 25 February and will be sending out more details in the new year, or check our stleonardshall.org.uk for updates. There will be food and a cash bar. These events are vital for fund raising and we hope to see lots of people attending.

Due to water damage we have now accepted a quote to have the floor in the Annexe (pictured left) and corridor replaced and this will happen during the first two weeks in January 2023.



We advertised for a local handyperson to replace our existing handyman who is due to retire in the new year and were very pleased and surprised to have two people apply. We have now employed one of the applicants and they are working together with the existing handyman to learn the ropes.

Margaret Goringe, Chairman

Computer Café ... on the password challenge!

Passwords are a fact of life for anyone using the internet and as we've heard many times: "every password should be unique and impossible to guess." Good advice ... but how?

Our current advice is three unrelated words that are memorable to you, like, 'roseplumvole'. Don't even ask what sort of upbringing I had in order to consider those to be memorable to me!

That answers the impossible to guess part, but how do you make it unique as well? Remember every single password should differ from the rest. Our answer is add something on the end, but what? One solution is to add the website name and throw in a digit as well, for example you could use [roseplumvoleAmaz7](#). In case a required password needs a symbol too, chuck in any favourite e.g. £ at the end.

Problem solved!

The next problem you may face after a period of time is the possibility of your treasured and extremely strong password being breached. But how do you know you're working with a compromised password?

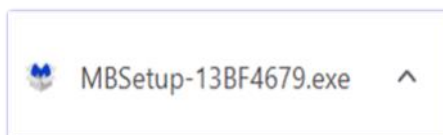
Many people use Google's Chrome browser (often referred to as "I use Google" whenever we ask which browser you use). If you use the Chrome browser but don't have a Google account consider doing so.

Why? Because the Chrome browser has been enhanced by Google with a Password Checker, which you can use *if* you have an account with them.

You need to be logged into your Google account in the Chrome browser and to save all your passwords to it when asked. The browser will then run regular checks to ensure they have not been breached.

There are other ways to tighten up your security when on line. Another one we recommend is Malwarebytes Browser Guard which is a free tool available [here](#) then click on the FREE DOWNLOAD button.

FREE DOWNLOAD



Once it's downloaded click on the file to install it, if you are using Chrome the file name

will appear at the bottom left of the screen, click it to install it. If using a different browser the easiest way to find the file is to go to your Downloads Folder.

Alternatively pop in to see us on a Friday morning between 9 and noon. If you'd like a timed slot (rather than waiting for one of us to be free) please contact Viv on [01425 476558](tel:01425476558) or [07722209848](tel:07722209848) or even email her on vivfrecknall@gmail.com.



The winter months are the time of the year that we all have to be more vigilant and careful whilst driving on the roads.

Ensure that your vehicle is in a roadworthy condition to cope with the weather — keep tyres inflated to the correct pressure, coolant in your radiator, check your washers are not frozen, check the oil level and in today's world that your mobile phone is fully charged.

Give yourself longer to stop — no hard use of the brakes, unless absolutely necessary. Try using your gears to slow you down — most vehicles with automatic gearboxes have the option of changing gears manually.

This is a far safer way of slowing your vehicle down safely in snowy or icy conditions.

The most important thing is to keep your speed down and drive within the limits of the condition of the roads you drive on. Slow down for all junctions, even if you have right of way, as there maybe another vehicle approaching the junction from a different direction to you who is not conversant with driving in hazardous conditions.

Some roads may look clear and not show any signs of being slippery but you cannot see black ice. It creeps up on you and even if driving in a straight line it could be disastrous due to your front wheels being on the ice but your rear wheels not. Two different road surfaces give an uneven grip.

In really bad weather conditions it is advisable to ensure that you have extra warm clothing available in the car, and a flask of hot drink in the boot. It's also sensible to travel with a spade or shovel in the boot. If you have any old carpeting in the boot this can assist in getting out of a snow drift!

Hopefully we will not have to suffer
the worst that the weather can throw at us but remember:

**DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT BY THE WEATHER
BE PREPARED FOR ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**

We at the Community Speed Watch Team hope you all had a
VERY HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS

HAPPY & HEALTHY 2023



St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council news

The Parish Council employs two part time members of staff: The Parish Clerk and the Assistant Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk works 25 hours a week and is known as the Proper Officer. They are responsible for the running of the council and ensuring it remains legal. The Parish Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). This means they are responsible for the management of the council precept and its finances which are audited internally and externally each year.

The Assistant Parish Clerk works 10 hours a week and their main role is to support the clerk and the council in all its activities. The two form a strong team that makes sure the council runs as smoothly as possible.

The current Assistant Clerk, Ann Jacobs, was the previous clerk for 16 years. In 2020 she decided to reduce her workload and take a step back from managing things. This is when the new clerk was recruited.

She has decided to retire on 31 May 2023. At that time she will have completed 19 years of service for the Parish Council. She is the longest serving Parish Clerk for this council since it was formed in 1932.

Ann started work on 4 July 2004. This was the year Manchester United won the FA Cup which was played at the Millennium Stadium because the new Wembley Stadium was still under construction, AFC Bournemouth finished 9th in League 2, the summer Olympics were held in Athens and petrol was just 80p a litre.

Ann has been involved in a great many Parish Council projects and plans. Liaising over forestry plans at Moors Valley, parish plans for planning and the refurbishment of the playpark in 2007. She was instrumental in securing a large grant for the playpark refurbishment and attended the House of Lords for a lunch for those who were the recipients of large grants.

But probably of more significant importance is that she has helped hundreds of residents daily with the more mundane things that affect all our lives. Helping to relocate lost dogs, assistance with grants, offering advice to people, sometimes simply offering an ear to a concerned resident and just being there to help.

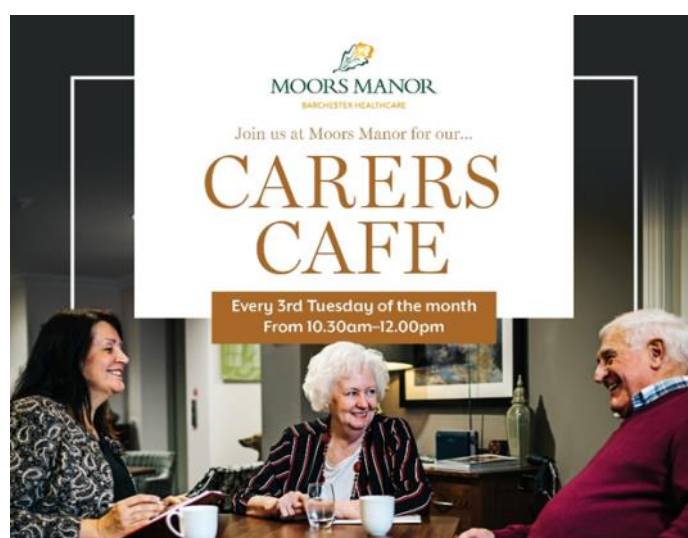
For this the Parish Council is eternally grateful.

The Parish Council is now in a position to find a replacement for Ann. It will start its recruitment campaign in January 2023.

Adverts will appear in the press and on the Dorset Council website in the new year and we hope to interview near the end of February with a start date sometime in May 2023.

If you are interested in this position, please give the Parish Clerk a call on 01425 482727 for an informal chat or email clerk@stleonardspc.org.uk for further information.

The role is 12 hours a week, based in the office at St Leonards. Experience of Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook and financial bookkeeping are required and experience of working in local government and minute taking is desirable.



Are you caring for a relative or a friend?
Would you like to meet people in a similar situation?
Would you like the opportunity to gather information and advice?
Would you like some time for you?

Why not come along to our Carers Café and meet like-minded individuals in friendly surroundings.



To find out more contact Carol Davies on 07736 133 445 or carol.davies@prama.uk

Moors Manor Care Home
243 Ringwood Road, Ringwood, BH24 2DW
Tel: 01202 863610 • www.barchester.com

Residential Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks



HEATHERLANDS SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES VILLAGE HALL, BRAESIDE ROAD, ST LEONARDS, RINGWOOD BH24 2PH



If you fancy taking up a new pastime and making friends at the same time, why not come along and try our sport for some leisurely exercise?

We are a local club that meets on **Fridays from 9:30am to 12:30pm**, looking to increase our membership. Short Mat Bowls is suitable for all ages and abilities. Bowls tuition will be available at the club, you will need flat shoes or slippers, or you can play in socks to start with.



If you would like to give it a try, please contact – **Ken Lever 01202 570461**
or email ken.lever@yahoo.co.uk We look forward to meeting you!

Home Watch Traders List

Our Traders List is produced annually and the new edition is delivered with the Spring Newsletter. During the course of the year any new traders are advised to you in updates in each newsletter. So please join me in welcoming David Booth to our list. From time to time we add more traders to the lists during the year and in such cases we make updated copies of the full revised lists on our website:

2saints.org.uk

If you would like to nominate a trader to join the list please ensure first that they wish to be on the Traders List. Then send in written details to me, Marie Drake—my contact details are in the listing below. Please let me have their full address and details, including a landline and/or mobile number, the type of trade, together with your reasons for nominating them. Please include your name, address and telephone number as well.

Legal, financial and other advisory services	<i>David Booth, DB Consultancy</i> Wills, trusts, LPAs, inheritance planning. Home visits included. 35 years of experience in this field.	20 Matchams Close, Ringwood BH24 2BZ 01425 480954 or 07949 021118 david@dmsuk.info dbconsultancy.info	10%
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Committee contact details

ELECTED MEMBERS:

CHAIRMAN	Brian Frecknall	v.frecknall@btopenworld.com	01425 476558
VICE CHAIRMAN	VACANT		
MINUTES SECRETARY	Wendy Gulliver	wendyg2@btinternet.com	01425 473302
TREASURER (Temporary)	Brian Frecknall	v.frecknall@btopenworld.com	01425 476558
HOME WATCH SIGNS	Garry Gulliver	gghomewatch@btinternet.com	01425 473302
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Keith Pegram	kphomewatch@btinternet.com	01425 461480
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Viv Frecknall	vivshomewatch@gmail.com	01425 476558
SOCIAL MEDIA (Facebook and Nextdoor groups)	Keith Pegram	kphomewatch@btinternet.com	01425 461480
TRADERS LIST	Marie Drake	mariehomewatch@yahoo.com	01425 475733
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARDS	John Stevens	stevensno86@outlook.com	01425 483364
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Norman Drake, Debby and John Morrow, Norman Walters		

NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES:

Parish Councillors	Alan Davies		
East Dorset Urban Neighbourhood Policing Team—Ferndown	Sgt Steve Payne, PC Kate Davies, PCSOs James Marsh, Adam Fitzwalter	ferndowncentral-npt @dorset.pnn.police.uk	When on duty: 101

Home Watch members are welcome to attend our committee meetings particularly if they are interested in joining the committee. Our meetings are normally at 7pm in the Russell Room at the Village Hall. They are held on the first Wednesday in March, June, September and December and last about two hours, generally with refreshments.

If you would like to see the committee in action all you need to do is contact our secretary, Wendy, whose details are above, preferably about a week before so we can ensure you receive the agenda and any relevant papers in advance. You will be able to speak at any time but you will not be able to vote in any decision-making discussions.



nextdoor