

Chairman's report

Now that summer is officially autumn, we've entered the last quarter of the year. The nights are closing in and Home Watch is also going into the last quarter of our 2023 subs year. This means the next newsletter will be issued in January.

You will have seen in several recent editions that we are constantly trying to recruit road coordinators so that members can continue to receive news and information on items deemed relevant to Home Watch. The ethos of Home Watch is being good neighbourly and Covid gave us solid information that many of you are watching out for those in your neighbourhood.

We also desperately need to refresh our committee with several new faces and the commitment is attendance at four quarterly committee meetings and one AGM held in March or April each year – a total of just around 12 hours per year. We would also like some who are prepared to take on other duties such as Treasurer, etc. If you feel like a new interest for 2024 please contact me before the end of 2023.

Finally, our final 2023 social event takes place on 28 October as a Quiz Night (see page 9). We will be delighted to see you there.

Brian Frecknall

Diary dates

- 28 Oct Home Watch Quiz night, tickets £15 with soup and puds to start the evening off at 7pm. Contact Marie Drake 01425 475733
- 24 Feb Village Hall Quiz Night, more details soon. Keep an eye on the Village Hall website stleonardshall.org.uk for more information
- 6 March Home Watch AGM—this will be the normal short format meeting and the main discussion will be the future of Home Watch. Free afternoon tea will be available at the meeting. More information will be published in the January 2024 magazine
- 24 March Easter egg hunt
- 9 June Sunday Funday

All events are open to everyone

Medical assistance

OUT-OF-HOURS NUMBER

Dorset and Hampshire patients

RING 111

If the patient deteriorates before a responder arrives

RING 999

In this edition

Trading Standards news	2
Village Hall news	2
Community Speed Watch	3
Ferndown Watch Community Office is back	4
East Dorset Urban policing area	5
Computer Café.....	6-7
Community Café, Indoor Bowls and Probus	8
Quiz Night	9
Home Watch needs your help	11
'We need you' and Committee details	12

Trading Standards news

Single-use plastics are only used once before they're thrown away. The problem with plastic waste is that it doesn't break down, it only breaks up into smaller and smaller parts. This impacts the environment and wildlife for years.

According to estimates, England uses 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery, most of which are plastic, and 721 million single-use plates per year. Of these, only 10% are recycled. If 2.7 billion pieces of cutlery were lined up, they would go round the world over eight and a half times (based on a 15cm piece of cutlery).

Previous efforts to eliminate avoidable plastic waste, include:

- * One of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products announced in 2018.
- * Restrictions on the supply of single-use plastic straws, drink stirrers and cotton buds in 2020.
- * Plastic Packaging Tax in April 2022 whereby a tax of £200 per tonne was introduced on plastic packaging manufactured in, or imported into the UK, that does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic.
- * The 5p single-use carrier bag charge, in May 2021 which was increased to a minimum charge of 10p and extended to all retailers, taking billions of bags out of circulation.

Last year the UK Government consulted on banning other types of single use plastic and they reported that over 95% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the bans.

So, in October 2023 a new ban on other single use plastics is set to come into force. The ban will include single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers. The ban on these items will include online and over-the-counter sales and supply, from new and existing stock.

It will mean that businesses can no longer supply, sell, or offer these types of single-use plastics to customers. Businesses will need to use alternative options instead. The UK Government announced the ban in January this year, giving businesses time to prepare for the change.

Village Hall news

For anyone who doesn't know about our local village hall, St Leonards and St Ives Village Hall in Braeside Road is one of the largest halls in Dorset. We have three rooms with two kitchens, toilets, two disabled toilets and baby changing units. The main hall also has a large stage. We have a website which is stleonardshall.org.uk where you can see all the events held in the hall and the availability of the rooms.

The hall is run as a charity by a committee of volunteers who meet monthly to manage the building and arrange fund raising events. 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 is over 40 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 up with the major repairs and renovation needed to keep the hall in good condition. We are planning to do some more work in the next year and are actively looking for grants.

This year we have held various events to raise money for the upkeep of the hall and we are already planning to hold a Quiz night on Saturday 24 February, an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 24 March and a Sunday Funday on 9 June next year. Instead of having another event in the autumn we are looking to hold a Christmas Bazaar with a date yet to be decided. We are only a small committee and are always looking for people to come and help us on the night.

If you would like to join our events team you do not need to join our committee. Basically it's all about decorating and setting up the hall with chairs, tables etc along with any themed decorations before the event. There's always help required during the event in the kitchen, at the bar, selling raffle tickets etc. You'll get food and non-alcoholic drinks as a freebie!

Margaret Goringe
Chairman



Community Speed Watch

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit – what are we doing about it?

We have had many reports of vehicles being driven over the legal speed limit and many questions ... what are the police and the Community Speed Watch (CSW) going to do about it?

Presently CSW have a team of volunteers who have been trained in the use of the equipment and who operate in the St Leonards and St Ives area at pre-designated sites which have been carefully assessed in respect of health and safety, not only for the team, but for drivers as well. The sites we use ensure that the drivers and the team have a clear and unobstructed view of the road and immediate surroundings.

To date we have been very disappointed in the speeds that drivers are doing in a 30mph limit, some are reaching 40mph plus, (49 has been the top speed), and this is during the school leaving time. Please think how you would feel if you hit anyone, especially a child, at those speeds. It would certainly mean that the person you hit would be very seriously injured or even fatally injured.

There are times that we are joined by members of the Tru-Cam Team and if they are present drivers exceeding the speed limit will not be reported by members of the CSW, but will be summoned for the offence. This can include a fine and points on their driving licence or if the first offence may be offered a driver's training course instead.

In the last three months we have reported 96 vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit on the roads we cover. Far too many of these vehicles are checked at 40+ mph on a 30mph road. Hopefully the chart below will assist them in the realisation of excess speed.

Remember – slow down and save a life

Various areas are assessed for vehicles exceeding the speed limit. If it is considered that there is a problem with the speed of vehicles, then an area would be assessed for Health and Safety to enable a site to be located in the area. Hopefully drivers will see the 'Hi Viz' clothing volunteers are wearing and it will be a reminder for them to check their speed. Our main purpose is to slow drivers down, hopefully educate them to check their speed regularly and keep within the limit.

Remember the stopping distances of cars:

Speed	Thinking distance	Braking distance	Overall stopping	Equivalent to
30mph	30 feet	45 feet	75 feet	6 car lengths
40mph	40 feet	80 feet	123 feet	9 car lengths
50mph	50 feet	123 feet	175 feet	13 car lengths

Vans and larger vehicles have a greater stopping distance, your car can also have a greater stopping distance depending on the condition of the tyres, the road surface (wet, dry or icy) and if you have any heavy items in your car or boot.

KILL YOUR SPEED

STAY SAFE

AND

KEEP OTHER ROAD USERS SAFE

Ferndown Watch Community Office—Product List



FERNDOWN WATCH COMMUNITY OFFICE PRODUCT LIST AVAILABLE FROM 26 April 2023



LED GUARDCAM Home security

Detects intruders, floodlights the area, captures 60,000 stills or 750 videos, issues an audible warning
£115.00 per unit to order



ALARMED PADLOCK Perimeter Security

Ideal for bikes, motorcycles, oil tanks, machinery, tools and equipment
£11.00 per unit



MOTION SENSOR ALARM Now with remote control

Ideal as a shed/garage/caravan alarm, can also be used indoors
£10.00 per unit



WEATHERPROOF PADLOCK Security

Steel laminated body, double locking, hardened steel, chrome plated shackle 40mm
£5.00 per unit



BIKE MARKING Helps keep your bike safe

Tamper proofs labels and registration on the National Bike Register, tracks stolen bikes back to owners.
£5.00 per bike



CYCLE PADLOCK ALARM Secure your cycle or tools

Similar to Alarmed Padlock but with a longer reach enabling cycle to be attached to a safe point.
£8 per unit



CYCLE D LOCK Protect your bicycle

Supplied with bracket to make it easy to transport, made from hardened steel
£8.00 per unit



BIKE OR SCOOTER ALARM Protect your vehicle

Detects movement and sounds 130 dBs alarm if your bike or scooter is moved, key operated.
£5.00 per unit



SIGNAL BLOCKER Protect your electronic car fobs

Criminals can steal your car using electronic data, this device protects your fob, and also stops you using your mobile phone when driving
£3 per unit



PANIC ALARM Personal protection

Ideal for those who fear attack when out alone, Complete with built in torch and batteries
£3.00 per unit



BATTERIES

LR44 £1 per strip
CR2032 £1 per strip
312 £2 per strip



BATTERIES

PP3 £1.50 each
AA 50p each
AAA 50p each



WINDOW VIBRATION ALARM Protect your windows

Self adhesive tape and warning sticker, batteries included, fits any window or patio door
£3.00 per unit



PURSE CHAIN Protect your purse

Connects your purse to your bag. This popular item is now back in stock, but with no trolley token
Free to Watch members *



KEY SAFE

Keep a spare key outside your home
Combination code, Police approved,

£53.00 per unit



COMPOSTABLE BAGS For food waste

For use in your food waste bin, available in rolls of 25 bags
£2 per roll



SECURE RING UPVc Door Restrictor

Prevents full opening of your door, suitable for left or right hand opening.
£16.00 per unit



NUMBER PLATE SECURITY KIT Protect your number plates

Kit consists of 5 sizes of non return screws (4 of each), black, white and yellow covers, instructions
£1.50 per kit



SELECTA DNA Property Marking

Easy to apply, invisible to the naked eye, glows under UV light, each kit is unique, central registration
£30.00 per kit



CARD DEFENDER Protects your Contactless Card

Prevents your confidential details being stolen by skimmers.

50p each

We're back in the Barrington Centre!

We are open from 10am until 12 noon on Tuesdays to Fridays, you can call us on:

01202 894242

or you can email us on:

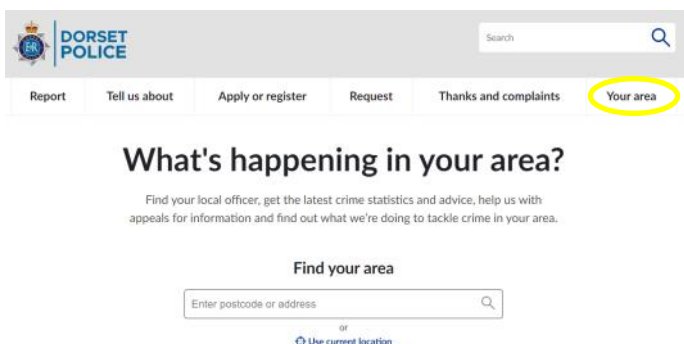
ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

East Dorset Urban policing area

Dorset Police website: dorset.police.uk

Having completely revamped their website they say *"Following the launch of our new website, we have seen a huge increase in the quality of information captured on digital reports completed via our website, ensuring we're able to record crimes effectively and task officers and staff appropriately."*

This renewed website was finished in March and is now easier to follow. You can view crime statistics by inserting a local postcode available in the **What's happening in your area page?**



From this page you are connected to our local team and can get further information, click on the tabs, such as: **On the team.**

Scroll down further to see the current crime statistics or click the **Crime map** tab to see more details, clicking on the map zoom in.



Your Neighbourhood Policing Team

About us Stations, contact points and offices On the team Meetings and events



Dorset Police is committed to delivering exceptional local policing, putting local communities at the heart of everything we do and to providing a safe county for everyone.

Each ward area has a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team, supported by a Neighbourhood Enforcement team and Rural crime team that collaborate with partners and stakeholders to target activity, tackling issues that are important to local communities.

We are committed to ensuring our teams are visible, connected and accessible, through regular engagement opportunities.

To view our pledge to support your area please select [Neighbourhood Engagement Commitment \(NEC\)](#)

There have been many other changes but most importantly the website no longer has an email link and advises that:

"Our non-emergency email was withdrawn from 5 June 2023 and digital contact should be made via our website. Alternatively, you can still contact us for non-emergency enquiries by calling 101."

AskNED

This service was useful for navigating the Dorset Police website to get answers to questions. This service has now been retired in view of the new overall website design. There is still a similar advice-finding function on dorset.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/

If you find the text on the website to be too small for comfortable reading on your computer screen a handy tip is to hold down the Ctrl button and repeatedly hit the '+' button to increase text size or the '-' button to reduce text size. Those of you with touch screen devices such as mobile and tablets can just increase or decrease the text size by spreading or pinching your fingers.

Message from Steve Payne

I cover the neighbourhood policing teams for both Ferndown and Wimborne. I am aware of the many requests and invites that we have for various council and neighbourhood watch meetings.

I am aware of how important it is for my team to work with all of you and do apologise if you haven't, or feel you haven't, seen an officer at one of your meetings in some time.

Although staffing is on the rise, this has not as yet filtered itself through to our teams due to the large amount of training and portfolio work these new officers have to undertake, but I am hoping that this will improve in the near future.

I would like to commit to at least one meeting a year to each council area. A member of the team will attend and will have a policing report and be present for any questions you wish to ask.

Editor's note: *We will be inviting a member of our police force to attend our annual AGM on Saturday 6 March 2024.*

Computer Café ... scam update

Falling victim to a scam can be devastating, both financially and emotionally.

Unfortunately, fraudsters are coming up with a growing number of ways to try to part us from our cash as the cost of living soars, and these often appear totally credible.

Cloned holiday booking websites

Fraudsters clone legitimate holiday booking websites and take your money and/or payment details. For example, scammers have been known to clone popular booking sites Airbnb (the official site is www.airbnb.co.uk) and Booking.com.

What you can do: Check the website address carefully to make sure it's the official one, and avoid clicking on links that are sent in emails or text messages. If in doubt, type in the official website address yourself.

Fake cancellation refunds

A flight or hotel booking cancellation can ruin your holiday plans, and unfortunately, fraudsters are using these scenarios as an opportunity to offer fake refunds. For example, they may send fake emails asking you to provide your payment details to secure a refund, or call you claiming to be able to do this over the phone. Scammers are also creating fake social media accounts offering to help you with a claim or refund for a cancellation.

What you can do: Don't be pressured to hand over your details. If you are at all concerned, don't proceed until you've checked out the company involved. Don't click on links or emails and contact the airline or holiday booking company directly.

Bogus giveaways

Scammers send emails, text or WhatsApp messages offering really appealing giveaways or deals. Consumer Group Which? flagged one that was sent out widely last year, claiming to be from Emirates Airlines offering free holidays. However, the particular brand or offer varies widely.



What you can do: If you receive an offer via email or message that looks too good to be true and claims to be from a well-known brand, it's probably a scam. Links in scam messages are often shortened so they don't appear as the full, official website, and you don't know where they are taking you.

QR code jacking

Quick Response (QR) codes are being increasingly used by criminals to get hold of people's personal details. These codes work like a barcode to access websites that enable you to order, and pay for goods and services, such as pub meals or parking. However, fraudsters have started sticking these codes to parking meters, restaurant menus, leaflets and electric charging points. Anyone who uses the code will be directed to a fake website set up by the fraudsters that requests bank details for a payment. This information is used by scammers to steal money from victims' bank accounts.

What you can do: Make sure you avoid paying through a QR code that's placed in a public area. If you are using a QR code to pay for a service such as a restaurant meal, double check that the website you are directed to is genuine. You can do this by looking at the website URL and ensuring it's valid, or asking a staff member if you're in a restaurant, for example.

Quishing emails

This is another scam that involves the use of a QR code. Quishing occurs when a fraudster sends an email that contains a QR code and claims to be from an official organisation, such as HMRC, or a bank, or a major retailer such as Amazon. The email may claim you can buy a product using the code, get money back, or that you need to provide your details

for security purposes (if the email claims to be from your bank, for example).

What you can do: Delete any email that contains QR codes and never provide your personal

Computer Café ... scam update

details through a QR code contained within an email. If you're worried because the email claims that your account has been compromised, get in touch with the genuine organisation, using their real contact details.

'Suspicious activity on your account'

You get a call or text message from someone pretending to be from your bank telling you there's been some suspicious activity on your account, which they will tell you has been frozen. They will ask for your banking details supposedly to confirm your identity and resolve the problem, but use these to steal from you. They may also try to direct you to a fake website to enter your information there.

Often the number that appears on your phone looks legitimate, with scammers using technology to mask their actual phone number.

In November 2022, the UK's biggest-ever fraud sting brought down a phone number spoofing site called ispoof.cc, which was responsible for selling this technology.

Thousands of people called by criminals who used the site may be contacted by the Metropolitan Police and asked to contact the force to talk about their experiences, with fears that up to £48m might have been stolen.

What you can do: Banks will never ask you for your PIN number or your online banking passwords, nor will they ask you to email or text your banking details, so hang up immediately if someone asks you for this information.

If you want to check whether it really is your bank contacting you, end the call and telephone your bank using your mobile phone or an alternate phone number, eg a neighbour's or friend's telephone.

This is essential as sometimes scammers will silently stay on the line, so when you telephone what you think is your bank, they are actually still trying to scam you.

If they direct you to a website to enter your details, look at the link carefully and see if it looks vague or suspicious.

If in any doubt, contact your bank directly, by phone and ask them to confirm.

'Payment attempted' scam

You receive a text message or call supposedly from your bank telling you that a payment was attempted from your account to a new payee. The message says that if it wasn't you, you should click on the link shown. This will take you to a fake website where you'll be asked to confirm your banking details. This data will be used to steal money from your bank account.

What you can do: Never click on any link that is texted to you without first checking directly with your bank whether it's authentic, and remember that your bank won't ever get in touch asking for your bank details or passwords. Forward any suspicious or unsolicited texts to your network operator on 7726, so you'll no longer receive texts from that number.

Ghost broking scam

You receive an email inviting you to buy car insurance, or spot an advert for competitive cover posted on social media, from a well-known insurance brand. Scammers will either forge insurance documents to persuade you the cover is genuine, or they will actually take out a real policy for you but then cancel it straight afterwards, pocketing your premium. Victims may not realise they are without cover until they need to make a claim or are stopped by the police.

What you can do: If you're offered an insurance deal that seems too good to be true, then it probably is and you should steer clear. If you are not sure whether the broker is legitimate or not, check on the Financial Conduct Authority or the British Insurance Brokers' Association website for a list of all authorised insurance brokers. If in doubt, you can also get in touch with the insurance company directly to verify the broker's

details. If you think that you have been a victim of a ghost broker, you can report your concerns to Action Fraud at call on 0300 123 2040 or [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

**Been scammed? Contact
Action Fraud and Police**

Action Fraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
0300 123 2040



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 Didsbury Golf Club, Hotel and Spa,

Ferndown. 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 at the same venue, with other 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 information can also be found on our web site ferndownprobusclub.org/

Community Café



The Community Café runs in the village hall annexe every Wednesday from 9:45 to 11:45am. Everyone is welcome, come on your own or bring a friend.

We hold a weekly raffle with the proceeds going to two charities chosen by our customers.

This year's charities are Dorset Air Ambulance and Poole and District Children's Cancer Fund.

HEATHERLANDS SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

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



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 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?



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!



Quiz Night

28 October 2023 at 7pm

Braeside Village Hall

BH24 2PH

Soup and puds,
Bar and raffle

Contact Marie on

01425 475733

marieshomewatch@yahoo.com

Tickets £15



The Little Learners Nursery

Rear of St Leonards & St Ives Village Hall,
Braeside Road BH24 2PH



Places NOW
available



facebook.com/thelittlelearnersnursery



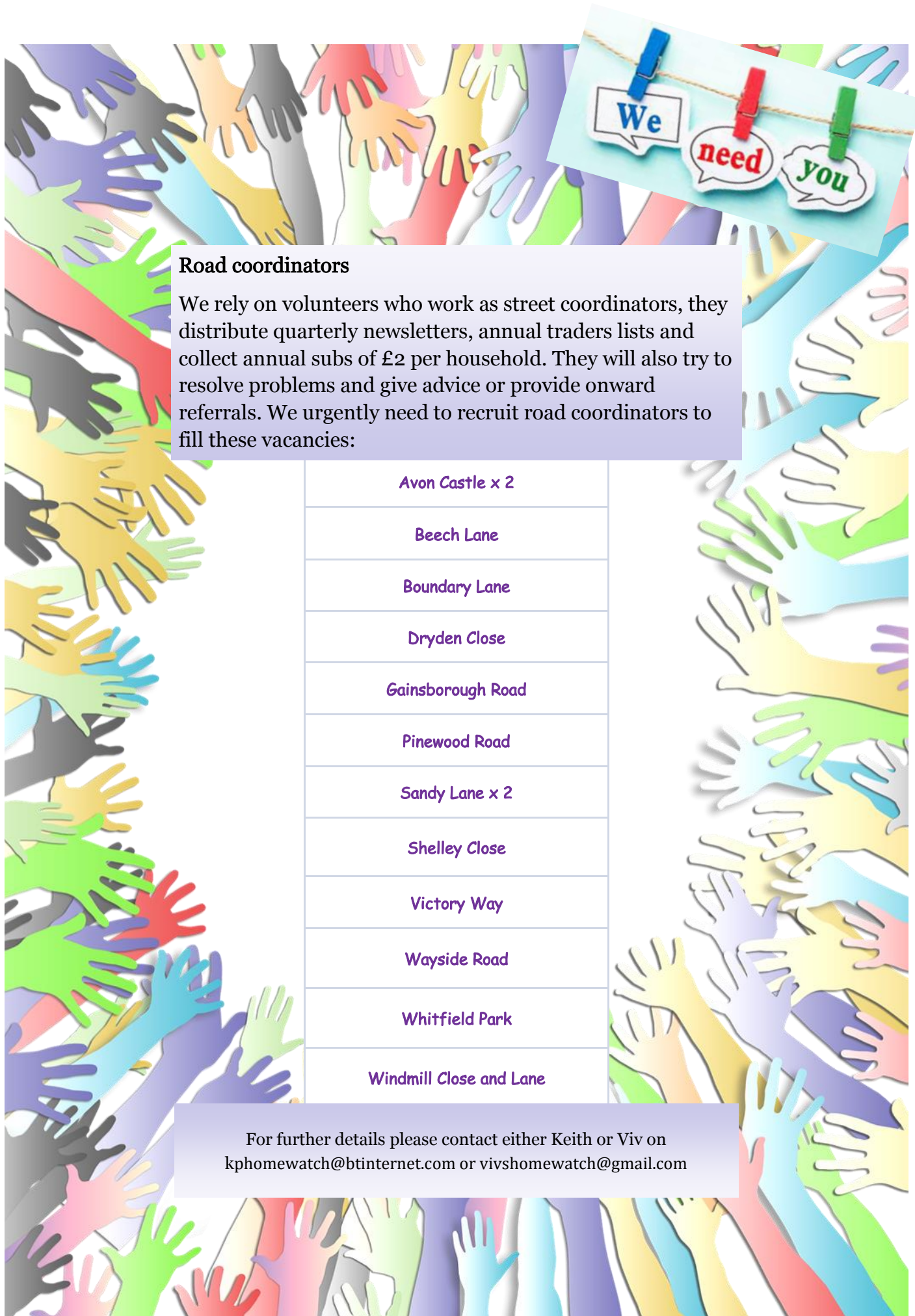
tk@thelittlelearnersnursery.co.uk



www.thelittlelearnersnursery.co.uk



07541 766152
Owner/manager Tracey Kingsley



Road coordinators

We rely on volunteers who work as street coordinators, they distribute quarterly newsletters, annual traders lists and collect annual subs of £2 per household. They will also try to resolve problems and give advice or provide onward referrals. We urgently need to recruit road coordinators to fill these vacancies:

Avon Castle x 2
Beech Lane
Boundary Lane
Dryden Close
Gainsborough Road
Pinewood Road
Sandy Lane x 2
Shelley Close
Victory Way
Wayside Road
Whitfield Park
Windmill Close and Lane

For further details please contact either Keith or Viv on kphomewatch@btinternet.com or vivshomewatch@gmail.com

Home Watch news

Home Watch Committee

Due to changes in circumstances and health issues we have an urgent need to refresh the committee and fill existing vacancies.

Sadly, despite a year or more of campaigning to fill the vacancies, the prospect of closing down the Watch is now a very real situation meaning closure of Home Watch by April 2024. Training and support will be available to all new committee members.

Ideally we need:

- * Chairman and Vice Chairman
- * Treasurer and Coordinator Secretary
- * Newsletter Editor and Website Editor

But we would also like more general committee members, prepared to help out at fundraising events etc. Please contact Brian, the current chairman, Keith Pegram or Viv using the contact details below.



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, Barry Goringe		
East Dorset Urban Neighbourhood Policing Team—Ferndown	Sgt Steve Payne, PC Kate Davies, PCSOs James Marsh, Adam Fitzwalter, Phil Robbins	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