

## Annual General Meeting 6 March 2024

The AGM is normally held in April each year. With the lack of new committee members and the resignations from others due to health issues, we are almost certainly in the sad situation of permanently closing down the St Leonards and St Ives Home Watch.

In addition the same problems are occurring with the street coordinators and we now have more than **20%** of our members who do not have their own coordinator. In such cases the committee are looking after those members as their temporary contact. Each of those committee members are delivering up to 100 additional newsletters to those members who are without a street coordinator.

As a motion has to be taken at an AGM in order to close the Watch if you wish to attend with an interest in helping please let Wendy our secretary know (see committee listing overleaf) by 28 February 2024 at the latest. If you'd like further information please contact Brian, our Chairman, on 01425 476558 or [v.frecknall@btopenworld.com](mailto:v.frecknall@btopenworld.com).

The committee needs between 10 to 12 members to be able to perform effectively, more if the loss of street coordinators continues. The existing members of the committee will all stand down and the Watch will be closed unless enough new committee members (who will get ongoing support) can ensure there are enough members to form a viable committee.

### Home Watch AGM agenda

1. Welcome from Chairman
2. Approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Editor's report
6. Membership Secretary's report
7. Traders List Secretary
8. Motion to close the St Leonards & St Ives Home Watch with immediate effect
9. Election of committee members if Watch is not closed and Accounts Examiner
10. Any other business and open forum
11. Close of meeting

The AGM will be preceded by our quarterly Committee Meeting, doors will be open from 6pm and the committee meeting should only take about 30 minutes. There will be wines, beers and soft drinks along with crisps etc available, please help yourselves—there is no charge.

Members of the public are welcome to arrive and observe the committee meeting, but will be unable to address that meeting, their opportunity for questions and comments will be in agenda items 8, 9 and 10 above.



## 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
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## Introduction to the new St Leonards and St Ives Community Forum

You may have noticed in the Chairman's report that the Home Watch Facebook Group run by myself and Andy Hill is planned to continue running under the new name of St Leonards and St Ives Community Forum as we will no longer be able to use the words Home Watch if it closes.

When the group was first formed, the intention was to use it for just publishing the latest Home Watch information and to issue quick, current information on security and scam matters. It became apparent very quickly that the Facebook group could be used as a real benefit for all matters in the St Leonards area, especially if opened up for all residents to use and publish information they want to see themselves.

We do not intend to change the format of the group very much as it has been very successful since its formation. There are nearly 2700 members who use the group for updates at times of real community need, for example, during Covid. It is also a space for members to discuss planning applications (whether for or against!), local events, road works, and to keep aware of the Parish Council's latest information.

However it is an opportune time to review how the group is used and look for opportunities to improve and benefit everybody in the community.

This is where we will need your help to put forward ideas of changes you would like to see. Your responses to the occasional poll that we may publish asking questions such as do you want more or less advertising by businesses?, Do the rules need reviewing or even asking for votes on local matters?

To help with this and to ensure that the group can continue to grow, Andy and I need help with the overall running. At times we have struggled to keep up with the administration especially at times of high usage such as the A31 road works and various contentious planning applications.

This role will suit any person who would like to contribute to the community on a voluntary basis and really does not take up that much time, especially if you enjoy using Facebook. The ideal person should have experience with administering another Facebook group and have the ability to remain neutral on all published comments or posts. If you can help us please contact me at:

[kphomewatch@btinternet.com](mailto:kphomewatch@btinternet.com).

Andy and I looking forward to continue supporting the community in the future if Home Watch unfortunately closes.

*Keith Pegram*



nextdoor



## Chairman's report

After many years as Chairman of this Watch I am sad to say that we will probably be closing down the Watch after our AGM in March this year.

I was asked to join the committee as the previous chairman had retired. I agreed to do so in the interim, never expecting that it would be a 13-year long interim. Over time the Watch has changed and I have aged ... so I will definitely be retiring at the AGM.

When I joined the committee we had a strong police commitment and the police were constantly keeping us safe, informed and reassured. But, as time goes on so life moves on. Now due to the low level of crime in our parish, we really rarely see one of the PCSOs. We were always blessed with their presence at our quarterly meetings and they regularly contributed to our newsletter. However, we have not seen a police officer for two years. Before the police cutbacks (and now, new hirings) they would join us at a meeting or a party event so they could talk to our residents.

Also, the village has changed, as more and more single buildings have become multi property. This has brought in an influx of new families, and we are no longer a mainly retired population. However, it's lovely to see so many young families as well, and they're taking advantage of changes within the village infrastructure, for example, the wonderful Little Learners nursery which runs through term time in what was the Youth Club at the back of the Village Hall.

Modern technology has also changed the way we live, in 2010 the Village Hall became 'modern' when Broadband was installed and opened it's Computer Café, thanks to a grant to purchase equipment. Most users were retirees wanting to learn about computers and in subsequent years, smartphones and tablets.

All these changes have affected the Watch and we've moved with the times, setting up the Home Watch parish website (2saints.org.uk), with its spin off of a Facebook group excellently managed by Keith Pegram and Andy Hill. If the Watch does close this year Keith plans to continue under the new name of St Leonards and St Ives Community Group. Over the years Keith has built the group up to 2652 members as at the beginning of December 2023.

I'd like to thank a few others: Elaine and now Marie who produced the annual Traders Lists each year, Norman Walters and now Garry who have ensured the Home Watch area street signs are present and cleaned. John Stevens has taken on the task of updating the five noticeboards in the village and Norman Drake, who set up the Speed Watch operation in our village, with his team of helpers – this is another scheme which will continue even if the Watch closes. Finally I like to thank Barbara, Pat and now Wendy our secretaries, who have looked after me so well.

Home Watch and Neighbourhood Watch (both the same thing) cover all of the UK and is very much a community-based organisation, with all the usual infrastructure of homes, shops, offices, parks, etc, think of Ringwood with it's high street. We lack any 'town or village centre' – the shortest high street in the country isn't a focal point for the village although we are all grateful for the pharmacy, hairdresser and One Stop shops. We do have a very successful village hall which is very well patronised and we have held many Home Watch parties and quizzes etc.

Sadly we had to cancel the November quiz night. Due to circumstances we could not gather together enough helpers and committee members to manage the event.

So my final thanks as your Chairman, go to all the Home Watch members (just over 2000 at its peak), all the street coordinators who have served those members and all the other committee members I have had the pleasure of working with, including my wife!

*Brian Frecknall*

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# 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**

The Ferndown Watch Community Office is situated in Pennys Walk, Ferndown

All items are subject to availability, prices as at 26 April 2023  
We are open Monday to Friday from 10.00 until 12.00

Telephone number 01202 894242

Website [www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org](http://www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org)

Please note that some of the security items for sale do not have a Police security accreditation so Watches do not take any legal responsibility for these products.

\* Items marked as **Free to Watch members** means one per member of East Dorset Watches.



## Community Speed Watch

Well here we are at the end of another year and the commencement of the next. Hopefully we will have far better weather to allow us to go out to our sites and hopefully slow vehicles down to the legal limit.

We are receiving positive feedback from some local residents, pedestrians and cyclists when they pass us but an awful amount of abuse from far too many drivers. We ask the drivers to put themselves in a position when they are at home and the police knock on the door with the sad news that a member of their family has been involved in a **fatal or life-changing** road traffic collision with a speeding motorist.

The CSW members are there to prevent this and hopefully drivers will adhere to the speed limit of the area even when we are not present.

Drivers who hurl abuse at members of the team whilst they are carrying out speed checks will now also be reported as they are not in full control of their vehicle whilst driving, especially those that prefer abusive hand signs.



We are all volunteers that carry out this task, some are retired police officers who have had to knock on doors and deliver bad news to families, also to have seen the aftermath of serious collisions.

Help us keep our roads safer by adhering to the speed limit. If you are unsure of the limit in a built up area then slow down to 30mph until you see a repeater sign informing you of the limit. These signs are smaller than the original when entering the restricted area so be observant. If you have not seen any 'repeater signs', then 9 times out of 10 you are in a 30mph area.

Repeater signs should be no **more than 500m apart on the same side of the carriageway**, 350m apart on alternate sides of the carriageway and

250m between the terminal (first) signs and the first repeater sign.

If you are interested in becoming involved with Speed Watch, volunteers are still wanted. If you wish to volunteer then please email:

[killyourspeed@btinternet.com](mailto:killyourspeed@btinternet.com)

for further information.

### Facts

Speeding is a factor in nearly **17%** of fatal accidents. Approximately **70%** of these fatal accidents are on roads, with speed limits of 40mph or less, in urban areas.



These few photographs show various road traffic collisions (RTCs) but only one was **life-changing** the others were serious or minor injuries and one got away with a couple of bruises!



## WATCH YOUR SPEED AND SLOW DOWN

### Windows computers

If you use the Windows operating system on your PC are you aware of the version you are using?

To check:

1. Find Settings—click on the Windows icon at the bottom left of the screen
2. Go to System and scroll to the bottom of the list to find the About option
3. Scroll down the About listing and you will find the version

If you are up to date your version will be 23H2, if you are a bit behind it will be 22H2. Anything earlier than that e.g. 21H2 is out of full service and is leaving your pc in danger. Full service for 21H2 ended in June 2023 and 22H2 will be out of full service on 14 October 2025.

So what does that mean?

In the early life of a new version you will get feature updates which are intended to be enhancements to the new version (sometimes it's also used to correct bugs in the original state of the version). You will also get security updates, these can come through at any time and are frequent. Their purpose is to patch (correct) any loopholes, so maintaining the security of your pc.

In other words currently 21H2 users are at greater risk than 22H2 but come October 2025 your defences start to weaken.

We strongly recommend that any versions that are not listed above are dangerous and will leave you open to a potential level of damage. It is possible to gain some further level of security by installing either the free or paid version of Malwarebytes and the free Malwarebytes Browser Guard. See [malwarebytes.com](https://www.malwarebytes.com)

### Android Chromebooks, mobiles and tablets

Malwarebytes and the free Malwarebytes Browser Guard can also be installed on Android devices. Android is an entirely different operating system to Windows or Apple devices and is a more secure system than Windows. However it is a Google product and some people may feel that their privacy is not so secure as Apple.

Android products generally have a shorten life span than Windows or Apple equipment. This is because the technology is constantly being advanced. Typically the cheaper Android devices will need replacing in 2-3 years as they rarely get updates to the original operating system.

Buying the high price end products, from well known manufacturers generally gives you more security for a longer spell.

### Apple devices

To state the obvious, Apple iPhones, iPads and Mac computers and laptops cost more than Windows and Android devices. However their longevity of useful life usually well exceeds those with Windows and Android operating systems. Also, and very importantly, the automatic security updates provided by Apple outlast the competition by several years, especially when compared with Android.

Hackers target operating systems and internet browsers (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari, etc), so keeping your device updated is as important as locking your front (and back) door!

### Your security

#### Email, texts and phone calls

The problem: email, texts and the land-line phone system were invented in the '80s without much thought about security.

Email addresses, text messages and landline numbers can be spoofed, that is, compromised, as being sent from anyone!



## Computer Café news

So it is technically possible for someone to:

- \* send you an email appearing to come from one of your kids
- \* send you a text appearing to come from the HMRC
- \* phone you using a friend's landline number

There is no way of preventing this old tech from being compromised, so ... one at a time:

### Email

Firstly, a simple fear-free approach ...

- \* If it's out of the blue ... it's not for you!
- \* If you didn't ask for it ... don't do what it says!  
... then ... delete it

### For the curious - another approach

Check the domain (website name) of the sender's email address (the bit after the @) - is it right?

### Texts

- \* If it's out of the blue ... it's not for you!
- \* If you didn't ask for it ... don't do what it says!  
... then ... delete it
- \* Scam texts usually have links, check the link website - is it a website you trust!

### Phone calls

Landline numbers can be spoofed, that is, compromised, as being sent from anyone! The problem here is that it may be a genuine caller!

So ...

### Take ownership of your own identity and information and ...

#### ... Quiz the caller!

*You ask the caller your questions!*

- \* My full name?
- \* My postcode?
- \* If from your bank: time of my last login, my most recent transaction? etc
- \* If from the police: the case or reason for the call?
- \* If from HMRC: it isn't!

This was recently explained this to a lady older than me who then said she was looking forward to having a go!

When you receive a suspect email or phone call:

Don't only block the number but note the number and put it in the email subject line to:

**Action Fraud at [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)**

## 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.

## 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!**



# Quiz Night

**with jacket potatoes  
and a selection of  
fillings, plus puds and cash bar**



**24 February 2024**

**Doors open at 6:30 pm**

**St Leonards & St Ives  
Village Hall BH24 2PH**

**Tickets £15**

**Contact Marie on  
[mariestlshall@yahoo.com](mailto:mariestlshall@yahoo.com)  
or 01425 475733**

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

