

## Chairman's report

I trust that you all had an enjoyable Festive period.

Now that we are in a new year your committee is looking to further expand our membership, so the successful recruiting campaign will continue. Over the last few months we have signed up over 100 new members and 10 new coordinators. Thanks to all who have been involved in this campaign.

A member has suggested that a defibrillator should be fitted outside the hall, your committee is working with the Parish Council on this and we hope to have news by the next newsletter.

There are still break-ins to sheds in the area; remember that low cost security devices are available at the Community Office in Ferndown, or at the Sheduction vehicle when it is available.

Please remember to book your places at the Street Party that will follow the AGM, many of you were disappointed to miss out on last year's barbeque due to restrictions on numbers at the Village Hall, so please book now.

I look forward to seeing many of you on 25 April.

Brian Frecknall

Only a few party  
tickets left

St Leonards and St Ives Home Watch

# 2015 AGM and VE Day Street Party

with the  
**Swing Unlimited  
Big Band**

Saturday 25 April, 6-8pm  
Braeside Village Hall

**After a short AGM stay for the party**  
**Party tickets are £5.00**  
**booking essential**  
**period dress optional!**

RSVP to Barbara Pilch 01202 861821  
pilchs1@talktalk.net

**AGM only 5-6pm, entry is free**

Only a few party  
tickets left

### Medical assistance

**OUT-OF-HOURS TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**RING 111**

*South Western Ambulance Service, NHS  
Foundation Trust, has advised that this service  
now applies to patients  
living in both Dorset and Hampshire*

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

**RING 999**

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## Community matters

*If you would like to contribute to this column please contact the Editor.*

### Hedge check time

Home Watch recently received a letter asking all residents to please check their front garden hedges. As the author is no longer able to drive she now walks everywhere and has found many instances where there are brambles, gorse, overhanging trees and branches and wide hedges taking up part of the pavement which must also be a nuisance for mothers with pushchairs, carers with wheelchairs and those with failing sight. In some cases she has had to walk in the road to avoid such hazards.

So we would ask all of our members to check their pavement frontage as we know she is not the only member of the public who encounters these problems.

### My Health My Way

My Health My Way is a new free service delivered by the My Health Dorset Partnership for the NHS in Dorset.

Free courses are being run for people who live with managing their health conditions and carers. Living with a health condition or being a carer can mean difficult symptoms, but can also affect how people feel emotionally and impact on social lives.

My Health My Way supports people living with health conditions and carers to help them change their understanding of their health and to learn to live well with their condition. They use specially trained Health Coaches who assist people to set goals and develop the confidence, skills and knowledge to manage the impact of their health condition on their daily lives.

The aim of the group, run by Health Coaches, is to explore different ways of dealing with the effects of having a health condition and helping people feel more in control. There are six sessions, lasting two and a half hours, with a tea break, for six consecutive weeks.

People have found the courses particularly valuable as participants are able to learn, share experiences and receive support from Health Coaches and other people with similar problems.

Anyone who lives with a long term health condition or is a carer can refer themselves for a course or for help from a Health Coach. All they need to do is contact My Health My Way on 0303 303 0153 or email:

[info@myhealthdorset.org.uk](mailto:info@myhealthdorset.org.uk).

## Village Hall news

All the rooms have been very busy and bookings are steady. Our administrator is on maternity leave having had a baby girl at the beginning of February.

Councillor Ray Dudman kindly gave the hall his East Dorset District Council grant of £2,000 which has been put to very good use as we have refurbished our main kitchen and now have a new floor and a lovely Belling electric range for all to use.

Our Computer Café continues to thrive on Friday mornings and many people find it good value at £2 per session of 30 minutes. I know people who, having purchased new laptops or tablets find the Computer Café an ideal place for beginners where they can be taught by any one of our six mentors, two of whom are ladies!

Our Race Night was a huge success and we had over 60 people enjoying our excellent buffet and a little flutter on the horses. I have already been asked to do another one and will possibly do it early next year, but watch this space for news.

Our Community Day is tentatively booked for 14 November so please put this in your diaries. There will be further information in the next edition of this magazine.

**Ann Warman (Chairman) 01425 476319**



**Please support  
your local  
school's  
application to  
become a primary**

We would like to offer local children the opportunity to stay at St. Ives school for their years 5 and 6. Therefore, the school's Governing Body has decided to seek to become a Primary School again (as it was once before).

We are currently undertaking the consultation process and welcome local involvement. If you have any questions regarding the Primary School application or simply wish to show your support, please call us on 01425 475478

[www.stivesfirstschool.com](http://www.stivesfirstschool.com)

## Dorset Fire & Rescue Service

In your local area, Dorset Fire and Rescue 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 Home Safety Advisors, volunteers and operational fire crews.

In 2014, DFRS attended 409 accidental fires in the home. These could have been avoided if people were more aware of basic fire safety in their homes. Knowing the dangers and taking preventative measures could help save the lives of you and your family.

Fires strike when you least expect them, often during the night. They spread quickly but it is smoke that is the real killer. If you are asleep when a fire starts and you don't have a smoke alarm to wake you, your chances of surviving are zero. They can be purchased for around £5, a small price to pay to save you and your loved ones. Remember your smoke alarm must work to save your life. Dust it every six months, check the battery once a week,



change the battery every twelve months (unless it's a ten year alarm) and change your alarm every ten years. There are also alarms with strobe lighting and vibrating pads for people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

As part of our commitment to reduce deaths and injuries caused by accidental fires in the home, DFRS provides **free** Home Safety Checks. These involve a member of staff visiting homes and ensuring each has working smoke alarms; fitting or replacing them free of charge; checking appliances for electrical safety; identifying high risk activities; checking for overloaded electrical sockets; discussing practical and safe escape routes and what to do if the worst should happen.

To request a Free Home Safety Check for you, or someone who may be vulnerable and would benefit from a visit, please get their permission and contact us on **01305 252600** or use the online form found at **[www.dorsetfire.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetfire.gov.uk)**. Just fill out the form with your name and address details and click 'submit'.

## Home Watch signs

It would be appreciated if Home Watch coordinators could advise me of any action considered necessary in respect of signs in their area.

Typically this could include cutting back of foliage or undergrowth, and cleaning, re-fixing or repositioning signs in a more appropriate place where circumstances have changed.



Whilst a survey to check signs is carried out from time to time; it is not possible to inspect all 80+ signs in our Home Watch area at any one time.

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**

## Committee contact details

ELECTED MEMBERS:			
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COMMITTEE	Pat Sullivan	msullivan038@gmail.com	01425 478162
NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES:			
Parish Councillors	Jenny House, Barry Goringe and Ray Dudman		
East Dorset Police – Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Julian Humphries PCSOs Dan Byrne Adam Fitzwalter	Julian.Humphries@dorset.pnn.police.uk Dan.Byrne@dorset.pnn.police.uk Adam.Fitzwalter@dorset.pnn.police.uk	When on duty: 101

I read an alarming statistic whilst writing this article—in 2014 more than 75 million malicious computer attacks were detected, this was more than double the amount found in 2013 (a mere 30 million). How? Hackers can buy, or freely download, malware code then change just a few pieces of it. This changed code is then invisible to the antivirus programs. We have certainly seen an increased number of infected computers at the Computer Café. The article also said that more malicious software had been created in the past two years than in the previous ten combined.

That was just two days after booking the Village Hall for another of our popular Cyber Crime meetings!

If you can't wait until May and suspect you have an infected computer (doing odd things, running very slowly) pop in to see us on Friday mornings between 9 and 12:30—we don't bite!

### Winter Coordinator's news

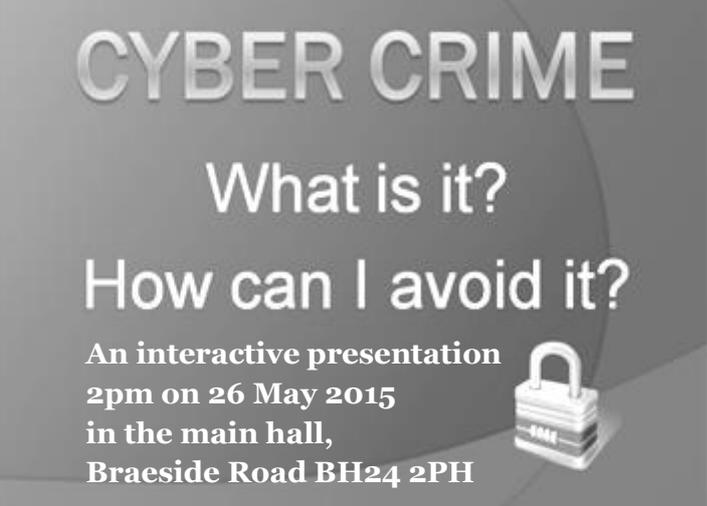
Well, officially we are out of winter and into spring, but as usual there is a twist in the tail. We have had a period of cold weather, and now as I write we have mild but wet and windy weather! My friends abroad used to ask me why we always talk about the weather - answer, because it can be different every day!

I had an interesting experience recently. My fuel supplier EDF advised me, as they are obliged to, that there were some deals from other suppliers which were more advantageous (cheaper) than my tariffs, which were fixed until March 2016. When I checked, there was a decent offer from one of the major competitors, EON, so I called EDF and asked if they could give me a good reason why I should not switch to EON. Without any hesitation they offered to put me on a new tariff fixed to May 2016. Result: my monthly payment reduced by 10%. It pays to ask!

As I have said before, the suppliers are very nervous with an election coming up, and under a lot of pressure because of the recent collapse in the price of oil. In that connection, make the most of it because we may already be past the bottom of the trough - oil did get down below \$50 per barrel, but it is now back up to \$60. If the sterling exchange rate against the dollar worsens, that will only accelerate the bounce back.

Anyway, we should have several months of improving weather and lengthening days in front of us, so I wish you an enjoyable spring.

**Bob Pugh** [janetbbpgh@btinternet.com](mailto:janetbbpgh@btinternet.com)



**CYBER CRIME**

What is it?  
How can I avoid it?

An interactive presentation  
2pm on 26 May 2015  
in the main hall,  
Braeside Road BH24 2PH



**Tickets £5 including handout & refreshments**  
To reserve your place please email Graham at [gledbrook@live.co.uk](mailto:gledbrook@live.co.uk)

### Let's share it around!

Many of our members now receive Dorset Alert messages advising them of crime or potential crimes in the area, but for every alert there's probably another potential crime that goes unreported.

If you are the victim of a non-life threatening crime, are concerned by a doorstep visitor or see something suspicious in your street you should report it to the police on the 101 number as soon as possible and certainly within 24 hours. Any information you can gather (such as vehicle description and registration number) without putting yourself at risk will be very useful to the police.

Calls to 101 cost 15 pence per call from landlines and mobiles, no matter what time of day you call or how long you are on the phone.

**Anything more urgent (i.e. a life is in danger, or a crime is being committed) should be immediately reported using 999.**

Sometimes people, although concerned by a doorstep cold caller, think it's too insignificant to report - please don't think that - because they will continue calling on other vulnerable residents until they do find one who falls for their distraction burglary or the dubious service they are offering.

So please share it around - even if you don't call 101 do tell one of our committee members (see list on page 3), your local street coordinator or preferably our chairman, Brian Frecknall. If you do this Brian can issue a Dorset Alert and that way your fellow residents can be made aware whilst these people are operating in our village.

## Community Café

We continue to have a wonderful group of regular supporters who create a warm friendly atmosphere every Wednesday morning at the Village Hall. Their support in helping raise funds over a 'cuppa' is great to be amongst and I personally have been fortunate to have met and made such wonderful friends since we began meeting last April.

This year our fundraising is to be shared between two worthwhile local charities – Julia's House and Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance service.

If you would like to help with our fundraising efforts, even if you cannot make our coffee morning, any CDs, DVDs, books, Bric-a-Brac, unwanted gifts or raffle prizes you may have would be gratefully received. So, whenever you have those 'mad moments' and clear a cupboard or two, please remember us.

You can contact me on 01202 861821, drop them off at the Village Hall on a Wednesday morning or at my home.

The Community Café is held to help bring our community together and at the same time helping other organisations – this year Julia's House and the Air Ambulance Service – who carry out valuable work in our area.

Hope to hear from you or even better meet up with you at our coffee morning get-togethers where you will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

Take care and keep well.

Kind regards

**Barbara Pilch (01202 861821)**



## A338 news

The Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) has secured funding from Government for a four year programme to improve access to South East Dorset. The first scheme will be the reconstruction of the A338 Bournemouth Spur Road.

During the first two months of 2015 preparation work has already taken place and the protection of many endangered species of reptiles is now underway before they come out of hibernation.

In September 2015 the main work commences on this £22 million project and again much work will take place to protect these reptiles. The project will continue until April/May 2016. Work will be carried out twenty four hours per day to ensure the work is speedily completed.

Delays are inevitable as each side of this very busy road will be closed for lengthy periods.



Diversions will be put in place and signage placed on major routes leading into the area. It is inevitable that Matchams Lane will be used by people with local

knowledge so expect delays at Hurn Post Office and the junction of Boundary Lane and the A31.

Regular updates will be on local radio and television. You can also get internet updates via the Dorset for You website or using the link we will provide from the St Leonards Parish website [stleonardspc.org.uk](http://stleonardspc.org.uk).

This is a massive engineering exercise and whilst every care has been taken in the detailed planning the unexpected may happen. It is our intention to keep information flowing during this period.

As a local Parish Councillor I am attending regular meetings with both the Highways Department and also the contractor, Hanson Contracting at Dorset County Council offices in Dorchester.

Our part of the A338 was built in the late 60's with a twenty year life expectancy. Each year £250,000 of tax payers money has been spent repairing the road. The growing volume and weight of the vehicles has meant that an upgrade was essential.

The work on this very busy five and a half mile stretch of road includes upgrading the safety barriers to concrete, improving drainage to solve flood problems associated with the road, increasing the width of the carriageway to current standards, renewing road signs and protecting current bridge structures.

The materials taken up from the old road will be recycled and used as the base for the new road. Highways are considering sites for this work to be carried out and Matchams Stadium is the current favourite. At a recent meeting I objected to this as the operation will be continuous from September 2015 to May 2016. Highways will look at alternatives.

The final surface material will be much quieter than that currently used although the choice of material is a balance between noise reduction and longevity.

**Councillor Ray Bryan**

## 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 we have.

The Community Office opened in May 2005, so this May we will be celebrating 10 years. In those early days we were open one day a week, run by one volunteer. Over the years we have increased the opening days to six a week and now six volunteers manage it. We now average over 200 visitors a month. We hope to do something to celebrate our anniversary, more to follow.



The very popular GuardCam has been discontinued by the manufacturer and replaced by an LED version. This is very similar to the old one but has LED lamps, which makes it much more economic to run and the LEDs should last for an average of 40,000 hours. The price will normally be £135 but we have purchased a large quantity which has cut the price

to £115. A sample is available to see in the Community Office. We also stock 4GB SD Cards at £6 which will increase the GuardCams recording capacity. It is worth noting that if your device records something of interest to the police they will take away your card as evidence.

We now stock the OutbackCam. This can be used in remote areas such as farms or stables where electricity is not available. It is powered by 4 AA batteries and can record stills or videos, in colour during daylight or mono at night. It is supplied with a tree strap and has a 4GB SD card, but can take up to 32GB cards. The night vision range is 10 metres. It does not come with batteries but we will include them in our price of £95.



We have recently added the LED floodlight, to our product list which is more economic to run than the previous halogen one, also the lamp should last for at least 50,000 hours. These are being sold for £12.



When the new waste bins were introduced we sold thousands of self adhesive numbers for identifying your bins. Due to the very large demand we eventually ran out of some numbers. Happily, we now have a further supply, so please come in and get yours, very reasonable at 10p each. We also have a small supply of 2015 waste collection calendars.

Garden sheds and outbuildings are still being targeted due to the large amount of valuable items kept there. You can discourage criminals by fitting a shed alarm which is available at £10. We also have an alarmed padlock at £11, which will activate if tampered with.

As there has been an increase in cycle theft, we now have an alarmed D Lock to help protect your cycle. The police prefer this type of device and we have a supply at an introductory offer of £8, while stocks last. Cycle marking is now available in the Community Office. The cost is £5 and you receive 2 tamper proof labels. We enter all your details on a national website so that should your cycle be stolen it can be traced back to you.

We have a variety of batteries at very good prices, and have just added hearing aid 312 versions at £1.50 per sheet of six.

During office hours we can be contacted on 01202 876219, but 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.

Our email address is:

[ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com)

Our website has details of our services and products:

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

## Taking one for the team!

For the second year running this Watch has been honoured with an award for its work. In 2014 our Chairman was presented with the Association of Dorset Watches award for the best Home Watch member (and was a finalist in the national awards). This year we have picked up the same award from Dorset Police and your editor was presented with a silver salver. The citation covered her work on marketing this Watch through the street corner

meetings; the Silver Surfer courses; Computer Café mornings and Cybercrime discussion meetings. Less confident computer users are helped to be safe online and to avoid cybercrime such as identity theft and scams. Although the award was presented to Viv she would like to publicly thank all those who weren't mentioned in the citation but who played and continue to play, a large part in the work she does - it really is it is a team award.

## Safer Neighbourhood Team report

We hope you have all had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2015 and hope to see you all at upcoming events and whilst on patrol in the area.

We have seen a small increase in the number of shed and outbuilding break-ins over the past few weeks. Between 1st January and 11th March there have been a total of seven break-ins to sheds and outbuildings in the St Leonards and St Ives area. **Access to these buildings has been gained by locks being forced from the doors.** Please ensure you secure your shed using a good quality padlock and remember that the police Community Office, located in the Barrington Centre in Ferndown is open from 10am – 12pm Monday to Saturday to offer security advice and products, which include shed alarms and locks.

We have also had three dwelling burglaries in the area. In these particular incidents entry has been gained at the rear of properties, access has generally been gained down the sides of the building due to insecure perimeters. As a reminder, please ensure that where possible fencing and outer perimeters are properly secured.

Some other reported incidents for the area include a small heath fire which occurred at Oakdene Forest Park and we believe two young males were involved. We have also had damage to the Matchams viewpoint gate, where two males forced it open causing significant damage to the opening mechanism.

Two pedal cycle thefts have occurred. In an effort to promote bicycle security the Safer Neighbourhood Team have arranged dates at Moors Valley Country Park where we will be running a bicycle marking event. These will be held from 10am – 12pm on 2 April and 28 May.

We have also experienced an incident where an unknown male visited an elderly lady in Lions Lane and claimed she needed repairs doing for a chimney stack on her property. They charged her a large sum of money for a job which involved poor quality workmanship and did not provide any documentation or contact details, therefore not complying with trading standards regulations. We would advise all residents that you **do not deal with tradesmen at the doorstep** to avoid being charged large amounts of money for unnecessary work (cleaning gutters, replacing roof tiles, surfacing driveways or gardening services). If these people are persistent please tell them that you will call the Police and Trading Standards, this usually has the desired effect of making them leave the property.

**PCSO 5838**

**Dan Byrne,**

**PC 1496**

**Julian Humphries,**

**PCSO 5104**

**Adam Fitzwalter**



## Greyfriars community bus



Many of you will know of this service which takes (older) people shopping on various days. It is run in conjunction with the Old People's Welfare Association and provides weekly shopping trips to

Ringwood for local residents who would otherwise find it difficult to travel into town.

Passengers need to book their seats in advance, they are then collected from home for the weekly trip and taken into Ringwood to shop independently, for between one to one and a half hours, after which time they are taken back home with their shopping.

The round trip costs £1.70 but cancellation at short notice (by calling 01425 472613) means you will forfeit your fare. If you cannot travel for more than a couple of weeks, perhaps due to a new knee or hip,

the fare will be waived and Greyfriars will try to hold your place until you are able to travel again. Some passengers use the bus on a one-way basis, perhaps to extend their trip into Ringwood and make their own way home. The fare is unchanged at £1.70, which is still very reasonable.

The minibuses are designed to provide safe carriage of passengers' shopping, and walking aids and the escorts are always at hand to reassure passengers boarding and alighting from the vehicles, helping with trolleys and bags. In addition each bus is fitted with a wheelchair lift enabling easy access for passengers with mobility difficulties.

One of our Home Watch members has asked us to remind you all about this service as the Community Bus comes into St Leonards & St Ives but has only got two 'shoppers' to pick-up. Perhaps you might consider using this service from time to time, after all if we don't use it we could lose it.

## Inspector Wayne Nock, East Dorset Neighbourhood Police Inspector



It seems a long while ago now but I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I am pleased to say that although it was a busy New Year's Eve the celebrations across the

area were peaceful with the majority of people enjoying the night. There were no serious incidents and of the nine arrests made, the majority of these occurred in Wimborne town centre where too much alcohol was a feature, a fact I'm sure won't surprise anyone.

I am pleased to tell you that there has been a 33% reduction in theft from cars and vans in and around Ferndown, Parley and West Moors area compared to this time last year. This is good news but I would urge you to remain vigilant and always lock your vehicles and never leave anything valuable in the car and certainly not on display.

The top targets for car thieves tend to be: - satnavs, cash, wallets, handbags, mobile phones, tools, audio-visual equipment and documentation.

To lower your chances of becoming a victim of a theft from your motor vehicle remember the following security advice:

- lock doors, windows, boot and sun-roof every time you leave your vehicle
- remove all valuables such as handbags, wallets, mobile phones, tools and laptops or other possessions from your vehicle
- remove the satnav from your vehicle, including the cradle, it is a favourite for thieves
- to stop number plates from being stolen consider fitting theft-resistant number plates to your car ensuring that they conform to the DVLA standard or replace existing screws with ones that cannot be unscrewed (these are called clutch screws)
- consider using locking wheel nuts as wheels can also be a target for car thieves

Most motor factors will sell such items and I'm sure the staff will advise you on other similar security items.

During December there was a high number of shed and outbuilding burglaries across East Dorset. In addition to the normal visible patrolling much work was carried out behind the scenes by local officers,

CSI officers and our CID colleagues. As a result we were able to recover property stolen from some of the burglaries and make an arrest.

The investigation is ongoing and intelligence is still being gathered but I wanted you to know some of the work your local police are carrying out. Please do keep on locking your doors, using alarms if you have them and generally remaining vigilant at all times. As I know many of you do, also continue to keep an eye on any neighbours that may be vulnerable or elderly.

I hope you will have seen your local officers in and around your area, if you do please stop to have a chat with them and ask them any questions you might have.

For the wider East Dorset area 24/7 patrol officers continue to be based at Ferndown Police Station and respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, supported by officers from our Operational Support department such as dog handlers, armed response and traffic officers.

Rural crime remains one of our priorities and if you see any suspicious vehicles or activity please either call 101 to report or 999 if a crime is being committed, additionally if you are concerned about giving your details you can remain anonymous and use Crimestoppers 0800 555111.

East Dorset remains a very safe place to live and work and although I have highlighted some crime that has occurred recently, recorded crime has not risen in the last year and is on course to show a reduction at the end of the financial year.

I doubt there is anyone who isn't aware of the financial cuts that all public services have made and likely to continue to make; this has meant, as with other emergency services, we have had to change the way we operate and re-organise ourselves internally. Decisions have been made to sell some of our estate and reduce backroom staff in order to protect front line officers. Despite the cuts and changes East Dorset officers have been able to continue to deliver a quality service to our local communities; this is in no small part down to the fantastic support and help we get from you, the public and residents of East Dorset and I remain very grateful for that.

Kind regards