

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY NEWS

SPRING
ISSUE

MARCH
2012



A quarterly Journal produced by and for Ferndown S. and West Parley Neighbourhood Watch in close association with the Dorset Police.

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The Editor welcomes comments, letters and suggestions addressed to him at :-201 New Road, West Parley, Ferndown, BH22 8EE
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Chairman's Report

As we move into 2012 it is clear that the economic condition of the UK will not allow any respite from the reductions in personnel and resources that the Police have had to suffer. Although we have the assurance from the Chief Constable that the priority for local policing is still there we have to recognise that the pressure of reduced numbers plus the demands of the Games in July will result in reductions in local Police commitment. We have to recognise too that the role of the Neighbourhood Watch, which is an important part of local home security, has to be maintained. We have a number of very good initiatives which we support and which we need to continue to support in the coming months. We have made a donation to the Sheduction project, which helps to raise awareness of shed and garage security. This is one of the areas for acquisitive crime, which is rising. We have formed a link with the Synergy Housing Association, which promotes the Neighbourhood Watch facilities with its own tenants. We have maintained a strong organisation throughout Ferndown and West Parley, which provides help and advice on security, encourages neighbourliness and vigilance against doorstep scams and distraction crimes and helps residents with home insurance discounts.

We always need volunteers to help maintain this close neighbourliness. Contacts who can help with the distribution of the magazine and the dissemination of the Police Ringmaster messages are needed in all areas. More Contacts mean a lower level of crime and a more secure neighbourhood for everybody. As existing contacts retire for reasons of ill health or increasing age-related problems we have to replace them to keep the organisation in good shape. If you can help with a few hours in March, June September and December to pass on the magazines to a group of up to 20 neighbours and keep them up to date on local crime and scams please get in touch with me on 01202 896984 or email douglas21da@gmail.com.

The Sheduction programme is also looking for volunteers who would be prepared to be trained to write invoices and demonstrate equipment to the public at local events. Please contact me for further information.

Final point. We have the large Hall at St Mark's Church for the AGM. Please put this date in the diary and make a real effort to come. 7.30 pm. 17th April 2012

Chairman Douglas Lock



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DO THE FOLLOWING REPORTS MAKE YOU FEEL SAFE?

- Man in a white van travelling down New Road towards the Parley lights was seen putting letters into an envelope while driving with his elbows.
- Youth cyclist riding along a busy main road with one hand in his pocket and the other holding a mobile phone to his ear.
- Motor cyclists & some car drivers continue to use the wrong side of the traffic island at Parley Cross just to gain a few metres on other more responsible road users...who cares about pedestrians crossing the road at this point?
- Cyclists still continue to use the footpath along Christchurch Road despite considerable expense in providing a cycle track the other side. The reason given by most is that the street lighting is on the footpath side and crossing the road at Chapelgate roundabout is not safe. Seems like a waste of public money.
- Complaints about the number of vehicles parking completely on the pavements in Ferndown & Parley forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. (See article below)
- Excessive parking along shopping parade at Parley is considered low priority despite the recommendations by PACT. It would seem that a representative from Traffic Engineering Team visited the area one morning and found plenty of space. So pedestrians, be careful of those drivers who use this service road in order to beat the lights because many of them are travelling fast between the parked vehicles, mainly during late afternoon!

PAVEMENT PARKING

Since last year's observations, more drivers are using the pavement to park cars on.

"Give them an inch and they'll take a mile"

Pavement parking is becoming a major problem. Not only does pavement parking restrict accessibility and create car dominated streets, but it is also a drain on scarce maintenance budgets with regular damage to pavements. We clearly need a new legal framework to prevent pedestrians from being marginalised by inconsiderate parking.

Why it matters:

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1. Increased car ownership increases demand and pressure on parking.
 2. We have an ageing population with increasing levels of mobility and visual impairments.
 3. People with disabilities, and parents with children in pushchairs are those most affected by vehicles blocking the pavement.
 4. The damage from pavement parking costs every local authority thousands of pounds every year in maintenance and repair.
 5. Any signs and physical prevention measures are both expensive and serve only to clutter the street environment.
 6. Enforcement of the laws can be self-financing, with no cost to the public purse.
 7. We should be taking pride in our streets rather than cluttering and damaging the pavements through inconsiderate parking.
- Apparently, it is not illegal to **park** on the pavement but it is an offence to **drive** on the pavement; clearly it is not possible to park on the pavement without driving on it.

However, Dorset Police will issue a warning to drivers who park their vehicle on the pavement causing an obstruction to pedestrians and a £30 fixed penalty can be served. **Pedestrians must contact the police who will then issue the notice**

DORSET DRIVER COURSES 2012

These courses are designed to refresh and update your driving skills

By popular demand, more Dorset Driver courses have been organised by Dorset County Council. They can now be booked online, making it even easier to improve your road knowledge and hazard awareness.

Bookings are now being taken but places are filling up quickly. These very popular courses, which take place locally within a friendly environment, are presented by experienced road safety professionals.

The two-hour theory sessions, which cost just £5 per person, are designed to help drivers of all ages deal with a wide range of driving conditions and address the most common causes of crashes in Dorset – poor hazard perception, failing to

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judge another vehicle's speed correctly and loss of control. Topics include refreshing your Highway Code knowledge, modern driving techniques and how to drive safely in adverse conditions.

Drivers are given essential advice and tips on how to stay safe by improving observation, avoiding distractions and how to keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front. Driving on motorways and dual carriageways is covered in the presentation, as well as the correct procedure for negotiating roundabouts.

The dates and locations of upcoming Dorset Driver courses are below. To sign up, simply complete the online booking form at www.dorsetforyou.com/dorsetdriver or contact the Road Safety team on (01305) 224558.

4 April	2pm	Bethany Lounge, Blandford Parish Centre
19 April	10am	Kings Park Training Centre, Boscombe
9 May	7pm	Canford Room, Allendale Centre, Wimborne
22 May	2pm	Wingfield Room, Digby Hall, Sherborne
11 June	10am	The Study, Upton House, Upton Country Park, Poole
22 June	10am	Committee Rm 4, County Hall, Dorchester

People who attend the course have the opportunity to refresh their practical driving skills by signing up for a 90-minute, one-to-one driving session on local roads, under the supervision of an experienced driving instructor, costing £37.50. Booking information will be available at the theory refresher course.

SHEDUCATION IN EAST DORSET

In an effort to combat the increasing number of thefts from sheds and outbuildings across East Dorset, various local crime prevention groups came together last year to agree measures to address the issue.

The solution agreed upon was the 'Sheduction' programme, which aims to increase awareness of the need for shed security and to offer advice and promote products to address the requirement. The funding for the programme was provided by Dorset Police, East Dorset Home and Neighbourhood Watches, East Dorset Crime Prevention Panel, Dorset Community Safety Partnership and the District Council. There were a number of local companies which also gave support by providing various products and services free or at reduced prices.

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The hub of the programme is a covered trailer disguised as a shed on wheels, as can be seen in the photo above. Advice is provided by Police and Home and Neighbourhood Watch representatives. To reinforce the advice a leaflet is available summarising the many aspects of security. Also in the shed are posters describing the various shed and home security products available for purchase.

As the programme is rolled out, visits will be made to many locations and many events across the district, hosted by a local Watch member and Police representative.

For those residents who think their neighbourhood would benefit from a visit, or who wish to receive advice, obtain a leaflet or purchase products, they can register their interest with a member of their local Police team or Watch representative.

Strategic direction of the programme is provided by a Stakeholder Steering Group whose members are the District Neighbourhood Police Inspector, the District Council Community Safety Officer and John Shave MBE who is Chairman of the District Crime Prevention Panel, the District Neighbourhood and Home Watch Forum and the Association of Dorset Watches.

A Police volunteer and Home Watch member has operational responsibility for the programme.

For any queries, contact John Shave at:
nhwdorset@gmail.com.



Police Report

Communications

The Community Office

e: ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

Telephone: 01202 876219

Welcome once again to the Police Report from your Neighbourhood Inspector...the first of 2012. Therefore it can only be fitting for me to wish you all a belated Happy New Year.

As I reported previously 2012 is a year that is bringing with it many challenges for all of us in our various walks of life and no less so within the Police Service. We are now beginning to see the real effects of the Government's spending review on policing in Dorset and as we look forward to a busy year, we do so with the knowledge that more cuts are to follow.

You may remember that we did pretty well out of the last set of cuts. Specifically we actually gained an officer to our establishment in East Dorset! We may not be so lucky next time round. In reality, of late, we have actually been functioning at a substantially reduced level with staff being detached, or unwell or not able to be operationally deployed. Indeed our SNT's are working to a reduced capacity due to a number of PCSO's being unavailable on the Section. But this said it really is not all doom and gloom...I would like to reflect on what has been achieved over the past 3 months with our reduced capacity. We are still providing visible patrols in your neighbourhoods. We are still getting real results, with some very positive arrests for people 'going equipped' or caught red handed with stolen property. We are still attending all 999 calls and each victim of crime or ASB is getting contact from a member of their local SNT. Times are difficult and the staff I have on Section are working very hard to ensure that you all receive the very best service that we can provide.

The good news is still nice to read too - ASB is still seeing a dramatic reduction (-16.4%). Criminal damage is down by 10.3%. Violent crime is down by 4.2% and according to our most recent survey our public confidence and satisfaction figures are among the best in Dorset.

Despite all of this we are still seeing a rise in crime. Specifically a rise of 6.1% (which is equal to just less than ½ a crime a day) on last year's figures. This is mainly due to a rise in our acquisitive crime (burglaries and theft), most notably in our house burglaries and theft from motor vehicles. A lot of time and effort is being directed at combating this rise and we will very shortly be entering into a proactive partnership initiative. This will involve directed patrols aimed at identifying vulnerable properties and vehicles and taking action to rectify the vulnerabilities by way of surveys, education and advice. It is my hope that members of the local HW and NHW groups could assist in this initiative and perhaps increase the membership as well as assist in the sale of appropriate crime prevention products. Details will be passed through your coordinators and via ringmaster in the coming month.

My request of you all remains the same as always. I look to your eyes and ears to report suspicious behaviour to the Police. We have had so much success of late following the report of suspicious characters. We cannot achieve many of the arrests and recovery of property etc without first getting the 'tip off' from helpful members of our communities. In addition this time round I am also seeking your support to assist us with time if you are able? We are seeking volunteers to assist in our Sheduction initiative as well as a volunteer to assist us with a developing ASB protocol. It is nothing too onerous and will simply involve a few hours a week in the warmth of a police station! For further details please contact your SNT and they can explain a little more.

And finally for this edition I just want to reassure you all regarding the apparently uncertain future that we face in policing within Dorset. Some of you may have seen or heard or read the Chief Constable's recent news release regarding the challenge we now face following the funding cuts. A lot of hard decisions and adjustments to the service we provide will occur over the coming years. My absolute priority will be to ensure that we remain able to provide safe and appropriate policing within East Dorset. Indeed this has been the Chief Constable's priority over the past 12 months of change. The proof is in the pudding. Most recently you may have learnt that some enquiry offices are closing to help reduce cost and increase efficiency. The initial plan detailed the closure to two stations locally. Thanks to the voice of the community and internal representation we have been able to keep all of our stations open, albeit with amended and reduced hours. I will keep you updated as the year progresses...but at this moment all I can say is that we are about to enter the initial stages of discussion regarding how we can reduce our expenditure by the required £5,000,000 over the next 12 months!

As always, warmest regards,

Mike Darkin, East Dorset Neighbourhood Inspector



HEATHERLANDS AND LINKS UPDATE

Criminal Damage

We are seeing an increase in criminal damage on the Heatherlands estate. There have been four instances since Christmas of windows being shot through with a catapult, mainly in the hours after school to 2100 hours. Enhanced Police patrols have been conducted in the area, and we are appealing for people to pass any information as to possible suspects to us.



Burglary

There has been an increase in domestic burglaries in the East Dorset area, which are mainly occurring during daytime hours. We are reminding folk to set their alarms, take steps to enhance their home security, and report any suspicious activity to Police when it is occurring. Security advice and products are available at the Ferndown Community Office, based at the Barrington Centre, Penny's Walk, Ferndown. Their website is www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org, and they are open 10-12 Monday to Saturday.

Theft from Vehicles

We are reminding vehicle users to remove valuable items from their vehicles and not to leave anything on display when parking, particularly in secluded areas and local beauty spots. We have noted an increase in thefts from vehicles, and are tackling this with extra patrols of problem areas, and providing information and crime prevention advice to dog walkers.

PC 1496 Julian Humphries and PC 2404 Joe Turner

LIGHT UP & LOCK UP

The number of domestic burglaries taking place in Dorset continues to decrease but, unfortunately, over the last couple of months East Dorset has seen a small increase in this type of crime.

On a positive note, there are some simple steps you can take which make it less likely that you will become the victim of a burglary.

- Remember to shut windows and lock doors. An unlocked property is as good as an invite.
- Invest in a timer switch to turn lights on while you are out.
- Don't leave curtains closed during the day, but close curtains at night.
- Don't leave valuables in view of a window.
- Secure gates and all outbuildings. An open shed can provide the tools needed to break in.

Finally, please remember East Dorset is a very safe place to live but, as with anywhere, crime happens so don't be complacent. Be vigilant, be secure and stay safe.

FERNDOWN UPPER SCHOOL WRITING COMPETITION

Although the number of entries for this competition was below the usual number submitted we did award prizes to five pupils. Clearly the school is under a lot of pressure from the crowded programme of studies and examinations it has and although it made time for us to speak at four assemblies the response of the pupils was below the level which we have come to expect.

The five prize-winning entries were all from girls. Sofia Hazel and Samantha Willis both earned the special prize for effort and commitment and both girls submitted an entry under the creative writing heading. Their efforts to portray the mental distress and pain which comes from being bullied were powerful pieces with much feeling and sympathy for the victims. Two joint second prizes went to Winnie Smith and Hannah Turner who submitted graphic accounts of bullying examples with thoughtful conclusions. Katie Kenchington, who gained the first prize, adopted a clever approach with a well-written piece with a surprising end.

The girls are to be congratulated for their efforts and particularly for their mature understanding of the serious consequences for young vulnerable children who are bullied and do not understand why they are victims.

Douglas Lock & Geoff Voisey.

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Mirror, Sun, Guardian and Echo.

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CAN YOU HELP

Detectives investigating a robbery in the West Howe area of Bournemouth are releasing a CCTV image of a man who may be able to assist them with their enquiries.



At around 7.10pm on Monday 2 January 2012, a young man pushed a 15-year-old boy to the ground along Verney Road and stole his white checked rucksack and mobile phone.

Detective Constable Mark Portelli, of Bournemouth CID, said: "Following further enquiries, I am now able to release a CCTV image of a man who I would like to speak with.

I would urge the man pictured, and anyone who recognises him, to get in touch with Dorset Police at the earliest possible opportunity. It may be that this man is able to help me with my investigation."

The victim, from Bournemouth, had been travelling on the 5a Yellow Bus service from around 6.40pm onwards. The offender had boarded the bus around 10 minutes later and both alighted at Fernside Road in West Howe.

The robbery took place a short time later and the victim sustained cuts and bruises.

DC Portelli continued: "I am appealing for anyone who witnessed this robbery, and anyone who saw a man

ANOTHER REMINDER

NEW NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER



The new **101** non-emergency number is also live across all force areas of England and Wales.

You should now call **101** to contact the police to report less urgent crime and disorder or to speak to your local officers.

For example, call **101**:

- to give the police information about crime in your area
- to speak to the police about a general enquiry
- if your car has been stolen
- if your property has been damaged
- if you suspect drug use or dealing in your local area
- to report a minor traffic accident

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

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can textphone 18001 101.

You can also continue to contact us on **01202 22 22 22** and if you are calling from outside Dorset, please use this number.

In an emergency – when a crime is in progress or life is at risk – you should always dial 999.

Dorset Police, together with its neighbouring forces in the south west region, started using the 101 non-emergency number in September 2011.



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matching this description on the bus, to contact me as soon as possible.

All calls will be treated in the strictest of confidence.”

Witnesses and anyone with information should call Dorset Police in confidence on 101 quoting incident number 2:288. Alternatively, call the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111 where mobile phone tariffs may apply.

FERNDOWN STROKE CLUB

The Ferndown Stroke Club is planning several fund raising events to strengthen the organisation and to encourage stroke survivors to participate in a range of activities designed to help them recognise their strengths and overcome their disabilities.

Becoming involved with other victims offers a valuable chance to share experiences with others and take part in activities that can help with the ongoing recovery process. **They meet every third Wednesday of the month at the Ferndown Girl Guide Hall, Spinney Lane (off Ringwood Road - leading to TESCO car park) Ferndown, at 10.30am.**

The March meeting will include a speaker from the **Ferndown Historical Society**; April meeting, **Holidays & Insurance with a Disability** and May, **Digital Photography**.

Initial event planning for your diary is:

- 6th May 2012. Stand at the Ashley Heath Car Boot.
- 18th July 2012. Summer Fete (stands, cream teas etc) Girl Guide Hall, Ferndown.
- 8th December 2012. Hamper stand at the Hollyberry Fayre, Barrington Centre.

They look forward to your support at these events.

COMMUNICATIONS/GENERAL

- Last month a white Ford Escort van approached an address in Church Road claiming to be from a well-known company in the area, after seeing the company’s details advertised on the property. Two males told the occupant they were from the company advertised on the property and that they had been sent to service the roof. The males took a brief look at the roof with a ladder and then encouraged the occupant to get in the van with the two males who drove her to a nearby bank where she withdrew a large sum of money and paid the two men up front for some work they claimed they would



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be back to do the next day. The two men did not return! Please be vigilant to cold callers. Always remember to check ID and confirm with any company that they have been sent. If you are unsure then please dial 101 to speak with an officer to get further advice. We also ask that if you have neighbours who may be vulnerable to these types of crime, to keep an eye out for them and pass on this important message.

- This is to inform people that scams about computers are still happening. The cold caller will say that there is a problem with your computer then ask for your details, passwords etc. If this happens please hang up. *Never* give any details.
- This is a Community Message from Dorset Police. We thank you for your continued support. We would like to remind residents that the Police community office located in the Barrington Centre, Penny's Walk, Ferndown is recourse to make contact with your local Safer Neighbourhood Team. It is also a place to gain free advice about home/personal security and to purchase security equipment. We

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encourage residents to utilise the office at all times and it is a place where you can log non-urgent enquiries or request a visit from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team. However we would like to remind residents that incidents which require immediate Police attention, such as crimes that have occurred, need to be reported to Dorset Police direct on 101 in a non-emergency and 999 in an emergency. Reporting crimes to the Community office can slow down Police response time, when it requires urgent attention. Ferndown Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

- Sometime between 29.01.2012 and 30.01.2012 criminal damage was done to a vehicle parked in Nuthatch Close, Ferndown. Paint stripper was poured over the vehicle and two of the three wipers were broken. If anyone has any information please call 101.
- There has recently been a burglary to a house in Hilltop Road, Ferndown. The burglars gained access via a ground floor window where an untidy search was made and property stolen from a bedroom.
- We would like to ask all Watch members to be mindful of any neighbours who may be vulnerable during the current cold weather. Please take time to check on them and wherever possible and appropriate offer your assistance if they require it.
- We have recently received reports in reference to scam emails supposedly from banks, asking you to confirm personal banking details. You may receive one from your bank but also from banks that you do not use. If you receive any of these emails please contact the bank concerned and then the bank will advise you where to forward these on to, so that they can investigate them. They will never contact their customers by email and after forwarding them on, these emails should be deleted.

- We have recently had cold callers in the area touting for work and scrap metal. Please be vigilant and call Dorset Police immediately, should you have anyone knocking on your door or neighbours' doors asking for work. If you are able to obtain a vehicle registration, also ask them if they have a business card or flyer about their company, which will help us to see who is in the area.

On a good note, police successfully stopped a vehicle in St. Leonards and people from the vehicle were spoken to; they had been in the area looking for work. A vigilant Homewatch member called this in to us.

WEST PARLEY VILLAGE COFFEE CLUB

West Parley Parish Council and the Dorset Partnership for Older People Project (POPP) are starting a Coffee Club at the Sports and Social Club behind the Memorial Hall (free parking and easy access for anyone disabled) on alternate Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12. The launch will be Wednesday 7th March, 2012, and gives residents an opportunity to meet for an hour or so in relaxed surroundings. It is hoped that many residents will wish to attend to meet friends and make new ones.

Coffee/tea/biscuits £1.25.

The Partnership are also looking for volunteers who would like to help.

Further details: Sheila Gooden, 01202 573638 (West Parley Parish Council)

Dawn Jones, 01202 578293 (POPP).

AGM

The Ferndown South & West Parley

Neighbourhood Watch

Annual General Meeting will be held on

Tuesday 17th April 2012 at 7.30 pm

**at St Mark's Church Large Hall,
New Road, West Parley**

*We welcome all our members and hope
you will come along and support us.*