

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY NEWS

WINTER
ISSUE

DECEMBER
2013



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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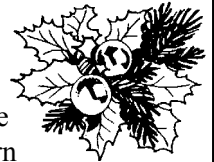
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Chairman's Report



After a very good Celebration Event in September where we had the good fortune to hear speakers from the local police, the Air Ambulance and the Dorset PCC Martyn Underhill, I was more than surprised to learn that there might be plans to save money by closing the Ferndown Police Station.

The Station in Ameysford Road is not just the local Bobby Shop. It is the headquarters for the East Dorset Section covering a wide area from Sixpenny Handley to Alderholt and out to Sturminster Newton and Corfe Mullen. It covers a population of some 85,000 people. We have about 20,000 people in Ferndown alone. The Station is purpose built, for it contains the Police vehicles base, the Police Dogs Kennels and the Firearms Squad apart from the Communications Centre.

I first learned of the discussions which include the statement that the Police need to save money and the Ferndown Station closure could save £500,000 when I had a call from an Echo Reporter. My worry is that with the local Station closed and the facilities scattered, the response times for the Police would inevitably lengthen. This is an area which has a scattered and vulnerable population due to the age profile of the area. We could become a target area for petty crime, burglaries and shed break-ins. The possibility of increasing anti-social behaviour problems and a reduction in neighbourhood policing seem likely.

The Police may possibly save £500,000 but the residents might well lose more than those savings as the cost of home security, of insurance and actual losses from local crime all rise as the Police presence and response times are lessened. We do not want to see the lights going out at night, the Police Station being closed and the Neighbourhood safety levels falling. Do your bit; write to the PCC telling them how you feel about the proposal.

Apart from that, please remember that Xmas time shopping and the general festivities are also a time for opportunistic crime. Presents left in unlocked cars or on show on window sills are not a good idea. Be sensible and be safe.

For those interested in the work of the Neighbourhood Watch generally there are a number of websites which provide information on Crime and disorder and NW initiatives across the nation, e.g. www.neighbourhoodwatch.net but there are others and a look in a search engine will reveal many examples.

Finally. We need new volunteers to give a little time to preserving the safety levels in our Community. It is not an onerous task, needing only a couple of hours every three months to distribute the Community News and keep in touch with neighbours.

Chairman, Douglas Lock Contact: 01202 896984 or douglas21da@gmail.com



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MESSAGE FROM WEST PARLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Core Strategy

More details are available about the outcome of the recent Examination in Public by an independent Planning Inspector. A number of 'main modifications' are required to the Strategy and these will be issued for a 6 week public consultation from about the middle of November.

One modification already known is that the plan for 200 houses to be built in the field west of Ridgeway is to be cut sharply due to the field's closeness to the Bronze Age hill fort at Dudsbury. The precise number is not known yet but the reduction will leave most of this attractive landscape in place.

After consultation the Strategy will go back to the Inspector around the Spring of 2014 with the final report being issued mid to late 2014.

Use it or lose it

West Parley has a good range of shops and local businesses that need your support. We have all seen in the media about the fragile state of some high streets and we are fortunate that in the village few shops stay vacant for long.

So try to think local whenever possible to support our traders.

Allotments

Some local residents are asking the Parish Council to provide allotments in the village as they can no longer use those in Ferndown. If anyone knows of any land available please contact the Parish Clerk with details.

Footpaths in West Parley

West Parley has many footpaths going through the village that sometimes become overgrown or direction signs get broken. Please report any problems to the Parish Clerk so that they can be fixed.

New signs in the village

New signs have been put up at entrances to Parley Wood to explain what to see there, give a bit of history and show the footpaths through it. Perch benches have been put next to them for the weary walker.

A large sign will be put up between the Sports Club and Recreation Ground explaining the facilities available and a large village heritage / information sign will be put up in the Recreation Ground in the spring.

John Cullen, Chairman

COWBOY ROOFERS

A member of NW living on a main road in West Parley was recently approached by four young men who drove a black 5 door vehicle up his long drive to advise him that he had a

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leak in his roof. As the property cannot be seen from the main road, it was strange that they could make such a statement.

However, the member allowed one of the men in to look in his loft. He came down and confirmed that there was a leak and if the member gave him £600 for the materials they would repair his roof. A Neighbourhood Watch representative was informed and so also were the Police.

Please be careful who you allow in your house. If you require a tradesman use our **Traders List** or someone recommended from a reliable source.

There was not a leak in the roof!

HEATHERLANDS and the JU-JITSU CLUB

A FERNDOWN estate transformed by a decade of hard work by its community has been praised by Dorset's Chief Constable.

Debbie Simpson visited Heatherlands estate to meet some of the people behind the changes.

Among them were PC Julian Humphries, the community beat officer who has turned down promotions to stay at Heatherlands, martial arts expert John Hanrahan manager of the community centre and Sue Sutherland, who runs a voluntary club dedicated to helping families.

Chief Constable Simpson hailed the "discipline and commitment" of those who have turned the estate around, adding: "I was left a bit dumbfounded about how things can change through the will of people in society."

The estate was known as Tricketts Cross until recent years, but has now been renamed.

Maureen Godfrey, a former Ferndown Mayor and Chairman of the Heatherlands PACT panel, said the old moniker had caused problems, adding: "It has changed beyond recognition. When you look at the estate now, it is like a completely different place."

John Hanrahan who started the Ferndown Ju-Jitsu Club more than 12 years ago, said: "I'm a great believer in the power of the community to change things".

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FERNDOWN POLICE COMMUNITY OFFICE

The Ferndown Police Community Office is located in The Barrington Centre in Penny's Walk. We are operated by Police Volunteers and are open daily (except Sunday) from 10.00 until 12.00. Please come in and see the wide variety of security devices and leaflets that we have.

With Christmas coming we have the usual range of free items which can be used as stocking fillers. These include Snap Bands, Purse Chains, Note Pads, UV Marker Pens, Ice Scrapers and Magnifiers. We also have a small supply of low cost items.

As there has been an increase in cycle theft, we now have a 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.

GuardCams are still being used to good effect in apprehending criminals. These are available at £75 and record up to 60,000 photographs or 750 videos. We do stock some but it is always better to ring first and reserve one (or more). We now stock 4GB SD Cards at £6 which will increase the recording capacity of GuardCams. 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 a door restrictor that can be used on UPVC doors without drilling the door (which may void the warranty).

East Dorset Crime Prevention Panel has kindly given us a donation to reduce the cost of Alarmed Padlocks to £8. This will apply to the first 100 sold and will only be available on Sheduction. The Shed will be out and about on the lead up to Christmas and a list of events will be on our website.

During Office hours we can be contacted on 01202 876219, but please be aware that this number should not be used instead of 999 (a crime is being committed or life is in danger) or 101 for other incidents.

We can also be contacted by email
ferndowncommunityoffice@btconnect.com

The Community Office now has a website where you can find out about the services and products that we have.

www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org

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'RANSOMWARE' SPAM EMAIL

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has issued a warning alerting people to this email, which appears to be particularly targeted at businesses, and has a legitimate looking attachment from a bank or financial institution.

It purports to inform about an invoice, suspicious bank payment of fax for example but is in fact a malware that can install Cryptolocker – which is a piece of ransomware.

The countdown screen

If opened the malware encrypts the user's files as well as that of the local network it is connected to. Once encrypted, the computer will display a splash screen with a count down timer and a demand for the payment of 2 Bitcoins in ransom (approx £536) for the decryption key.

The NCA stresses it would never recommend paying a ransom as there is no guarantee it would be honoured.

If your computer is infected it should be reported to www.actionfraud.police.uk immediately. For further advice on staying safe online see www.getsafeonline.org

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Police Report

Communications

The Community Office

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Telephone: 01202 876219

As we move into the winter there is still much for East Dorset police to focus on. In terms of overall crime this summer, the number of recorded crimes has continued to fall and is the lowest within the last five years. The fact that this has been achieved against the background of financial cuts and restraints, with fewer officers than there were five years ago, is testament to the hard work and commitment of the Police officers and staff working within the section. However I am very aware that this would certainly not have been possible without the ongoing support from the many volunteers that dedicate hours of their time working in various different ways. We have excellent neighbourhood watch volunteers ably led by their co-ordinators; people give up their weekends and evenings to help with initiatives such as the Sheduction trailer and other community events.

I therefore make no excuse in appealing to readers to seriously consider getting involved in some shape or form with our local neighbourhood watch groups. They are very effective in crime prevention and reduction and are a valuable crime fighting partner. Some may still have an image of 'curtain twitchers' when they think of Neighbourhood Watch; I can assure you this is not the case and my Safer Neighbourhood Teams work very closely with the watch groups. We have direct communications with them and they are amongst the first to be informed of crime trends or suspicious activity in their respective areas. To ensure the future of Neighbourhood Watch new members are vital. To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch have a look at www.nhwdorset.org.uk.

Christmas is just around the corner and as in previous years we will be operating some crime prevention initiatives the month before Christmas, particularly around the vulnerable and those planning to go away for the holidays. I know many of you do have good relations with your neighbours and speak to them often, but sadly when making house to house enquiries we find some householders don't know the name of, or speak to their close neighbours. The area's watch groups and police Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be encouraging all householders to take the opportunity to talk with their neighbours, find out their plans for Christmas, and hopefully ensure things like bins and post are taken care of.

If you witness, or are subject to anti social behaviour please report this to the police via 101 or if you believe it to be more serious and immediate dial 999. I can assure you that we will respond to every such call as soon as we can and in any case we will record names and details of those suspected to be involved and follow this up with our partners from the local authority.

Recent incidents/operations within the section include:

A number of joint operations with Customs & Excise where two 4 x 4 vehicles have been seized for using red diesel and other matters involving the vehicles also being looked into.

A number of warrants executed across East Dorset where controlled drugs have been seized and suspected stolen items.

Dealing with a male suffering from mental health problems who had mixed alcohol with drugs, armed himself and was injuring himself and damaging property. Despite considerable risk to themselves the male was subdued and restrained before he could cause really serious injury to himself. This was a very difficult incident to deal with and is a very good example of the type of incidents police officers are regularly called upon to deal with.

That is all from me for now, but please continue to report anything that appears suspicious or just not right, as without the eyes and ears of you, the public, we would not be able to function very effectively at all.

Kind regards

Inspector Wayne Nock



Heatherlands and Ferndown Links report



While our patch has not suffered as badly as others in the past six months we are still seeing garages and sheds as the most likely target for thieves. Just last week a gentleman's push bike was stolen from an insecure outbuilding on the Heatherlands. It would appear that opportunists thieves are prowling the East Dorset Section intent on preying on the contents of other people's gardens; non dwelling burglaries are very difficult to detect as few people, I include myself in this, retain serial numbers of expensive garden equipment or mark their property. I will naturally be taking steps to heed my own advice and as always I recommend a visit to the Police Community Office in the Barrington Centre as they have a very effective and inexpensive range of products including an alarm ideal for the job, it might even solve a Christmas present problem or two— Mrs. H. will be delighted.

In October the Ford Lane recreation ground area was further enhanced by the installation of a metal youth shelter at the edge of the newly refurbished football pitch and BMX track. The hexagonal shelter can seat 22 and has a solar powered light in the roof, it is a very sturdy structure painted in the same dark green colour scheme as the Ferndown Town Council's other facilities. Ninety per cent of funding was by provided by Synergy Housing through the Zone 8 toolkit grant, the remainder was made up from grants from EDDC, the Heatherlands Community Association and your good selves at Ferndown South Neighbourhood Watch. I am extremely grateful for everyone's support and would recommend a visit to the area which has been improved beyond recognition.

Crime levels in general remain fairly static at historically very low levels which is to be welcomed, however incidents between family members is still of great concern and steps are being put in place to support victims. Reports of anti social behaviour on our patch are bucking the trend of our surrounding areas with a year on year reduction of over a quarter. This is fantastic news and is something I am keen to maintain through projects like the youth shelter and services such as the volunteer youth club, which continues to thrive.

It just remains for us to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Safe New Year,
PC Julian Humphries and PCSO Sarah Rose

West Parley SNT Report

Over the past couple of months we have had several shed breaks in the West Parley area, items being stolen include petrol hedgecutters, strimmers, pushbikes and also a motor bike was stolen from one shed.



With winter on its way and the garden tools being hung up till spring, we ask that before you lock your shed up for the winter, please take time to check that your property within the shed is security marked and that your shed alarm or alarm padlock is working. If you do not have a shed alarm or padlock please visit the Ferndown Police Community Office at the Barrington Centre to have a look at the range of security items for sale. The Police Community Office is open every day except Sunday, 10–12.

Cycling at night

Now that the evenings are getting darker, we have noticed that many cyclists especially teenagers are cycling wearing dark clothing and with no lights on their cycles. We would like to ask residents to check that their children have reflective clothing and working lights on their cycles.

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch gives local communities the opportunity to get actively involved in road safety. Community Speed Watch groups use hand held devices to record and monitor details of motorists seen speeding and can also note drivers using a mobile phone or not wearing seat belts. The police then send warning letters to these motorists. For more information or if you are interested in joining Community Speed Watch in the West Parley or Heatherlands and Links area please contact PCSO Steve Winning or PC Julian Humphries.



You can now follow Ferndown Central Safer Neighbourhood Team which covers the West Parley area on twitter. Just search Ferndown Police.

We are keen to keep working closely with the Neighbourhood Watch in the area and urge residents to call us immediately on 101 to report any suspicious incidents, persons or vehicles.

Regards

PC 1072 Stuart Belfield & PCSO 5434 Steve Winning



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What happens next?

Information and evidence is gathered and entered onto a crime report and you will be provided with a unique reference number. This information is analysed and any lines of enquiry are investigated in an effort to bring those responsible to justice.

When will I get an update?

The officer in charge may be a response officer and works shifts. If there are any updates available they will advise you as soon as possible. With any investigation, it takes time to gather information. You can also access information about your crime on this website by using the Crime Victim Portal on the next page.

At the present time only information on certain types of volume crime is available. We do not at present include information within the Crime Victim Portal on crimes of a sexual nature, drugs related crimes or major crimes. If you enter a Crime Reference Number for such an offence, the system will return a response that your Crime Reference Number is not valid. In these cases you should use the contact details provided to you to enable you to contact the Officer in the case.

How do I contact the officer in charge of my case if I have a question or additional information

If you need to speak to the officer in charge, or anyone relating to your case, please call Dorset Police on 101 and quote your crime reference number.

Where can I get support?

If you need any support or wish to speak to someone about your experience, Victim Support will help you.

Victim Support is the independent national charity that helps victims of crime, witnesses, their family, friends and anyone else affected across England and Wales.

Their services are free and available to everyone, whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened.

MESSAGE FROM DORSET POLICE

The following is a reminder:

If you are a victim of crime, the most important thing you can do is to report it....

It is important to us that our communities **experience** a totally victim focused service, prioritising our services on people at risk or suffering threat and harm.

Preventing people becoming victims, helping and assisting if they do, and working to bring offenders to justice is the bedrock on which policing is built. Dorset Police puts victims first and understands that **your satisfaction** will be dependent on the delivery of high quality services.

When reporting a crime to Dorset Police you can be assured that you will be **listened to, understood, informed** and together with our partner organisations **protected and safe**.

How to report a crime to us

Calling 999 in an emergency, when you require an immediate response.

Please only use this number when a crime is happening or anyone is in immediate danger.

Call 101.

To report a crime or incident that is not an emergency or to make a general enquiry if you do not have a contact person or extension number call 101.

What happens when I report a crime?

Upon reporting a crime to Dorset Police a member of staff will be assigned to oversee the investigation. This person will

Victim Support is not part of the police, the courts or any other criminal justice agency.

Their trained volunteers offer:

- Someone to talk to in confidence
- Information on police and court procedures
- Help in dealing with other organisations
- Information about compensation and insurance
- Information on other sources of help
- Help and support at court

You can contact Victim Support through the local Victim Care Unit or National Victim Supportline: 0845 38 99 528. You can find more information about Victim Support at <http://www.victimsupport.org.uk>

SCAMS

The following is an old scam but probably worth repeating:

Please would all residents make themselves aware of a scam which affects people's email accounts. Several people have reported receiving emails that would appear to be contacts they know, stating they are on holiday and have been mugged.

They go on to state they require a substantial amount of money to help them return home, which they are happy to repay on their return to the country.

The reports we have received are made even more suspicious by the fact the people making the request are not on holiday.

If you receive an email of this nature, please delete it and do not reply.



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COMMUNICATIONS/GENERAL

This quarter some expensive professional tools were stolen from an unattended works van on Carroll Avenue at its junction with Ringwood Road. Fortunately the thieves did not enter the cab where other valuables were left on sight, please be sure to lock away valuables even for the shortest period of time and where possible remove them from your vehicles.

A garage burglary occurred in Ameysford Road, Ferndown.

Entry was gained by forcing the garage door open. Having gained entry the offenders stole a cordless power drill and a pair of bolt croppers. Please review your own garage security. An inexpensive stand-alone alarm is available through the Police Community office, situated in the Barrington Centre, Ferndown. Open 10am - 12pm, Monday - Saturday.

Two shed burglaries have occurred late this quarter in Church Lane, West Parley. Entry was gained to one shed by the lock being forced and broken off the door. The shed door at the second property was left insecure. Having gained entry the offenders stole a hedge trimmer, a strimmer, an engine control unit and a full can of petrol. A Black Carrera push bike was stolen from the second property.

An inexpensive shed alarm is available from the Police Community Office, situated in the Barrington Centre, open Monday - Saturday 10am - 12pm. For further advice and a security survey please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

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Preference Service? If so please be aware we have received reports of a company called Telecom Preference Service (as opposed to Telephone) attempting to sell a gadget that they claim can stop international marketing calls. This company is not linked to the Telephone Preference Service. Telephone Preference Service is aware of this company and has stated that the Telephone Preference Service do not make marketing calls and do not charge for their service.

Please be vigilant when receiving cold calls on the telephone. Always verify the caller and company they are phoning from, and do not release personal information or bank details to anyone you suspect is not from an accredited company.

Three further shed burglaries have occurred during this quarter, this time in Wimborne Road West, Ferndown. Entry was gained once again by forcing the lock. In addition to these shed breaks, within the same time frame a vehicle was also broken into on Wimborne Road West, 2 motocross bikes and a Honda generator were stolen.

An attempted burglary has occurred in West Moors Road, Ferndown. The offenders attempted to gain entry by smashing the lower glass panel of the rear door. Please review your own security.

A Bungalow in Firs Glen Road, West Moors had a panel removed from the rear door in an attempt to break in. Fortunately this property had a full fitted house alarm which prevented any theft. This again reminds us of the importance of home security, should you require any advice please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood team or visit the Barrington Centre in Ferndown. Please remember to telephone the Dorset Police 101 number about any door to door callers, as sometimes this is a method used by criminals to establish if a property is unoccupied.

A number of outbuildings in Barrack Road, West Parley were broken into and had high value garden machinery stolen. We would like to remind you of the importance of securing all high value tools and equipment.

Another theft from motor vehicles. Earlier this quarter a theft from an unattended motor vehicle occurred in Woodside Road, Ferndown. The offenders gained entry by an insecure side door and stole a petrol disc cutter. Please do not leave valuable items in your car and set the alarm if fitted.

A burglary occurred on Christchurch Road, Longham. Entry was gained by forcing entry through a downstairs window. Items stolen include jewellery, camera and money and attempted theft of a safe. The victim saw a black Peugeot car outside the address. Again, please review your home security arrangements.

At the beginning of this quarter the Ferndown Central area has suffered a number of lead thefts from commercial and public buildings. Please can we remind all members of the public to report any suspicious activity that is seen or heard, to the Police Enquiry Centre on 101. If you consider the activity you see is of a serious nature and an immediate response is required then ring 999.

Well, it's been a very busy quarter for thefts and burglaries in our locality, so remember Christmas is a time when valuable presents are purchased. Please do not display them openly.

Keep them away from windows.

*We wish all our members a very
Happy Christmas and a safe New Year*

