



# West Moors Home Watch Community Newsletter

In liaison with Dorset Police



Dear Home Watch Members,

Thank goodness the days are slowly getting longer and the gardens are springing back to life.

Criminals take advantage of the long dark evenings so please stay alert for strangers in the area and be wary of cold callers on the doorstep and on the telephone. Be a good neighbour and keep an eye on friends and people around you who may be vulnerable to con men and rogue traders. Those living on their own are most at risk but the friendly voice at the door or on the phone could be a scam.

The purpose of Home Watch is to reduce crime, and that is achieved by looking out for each other and being neighbourly. Communities are safer and stronger when everyone takes responsible measures to look after themselves and their surroundings. Know your neighbours and thus recognise the strangers.

If you see someone acting suspiciously, report it by phoning 101, or on the Dorset Police website-- [www.dorsetpolice.uk](http://www.dorsetpolice.uk) You are the eyes and ears in your community.

Do not get involved. Tell the professionals and your phone call may stop someone becoming the victim of crime. If you think a crime is in progress, dial '999' and observe and report.

AskNED is a non-emergency directory with answers to questions asked by the public, and contact details of those who can help.

[www.dorsetpolice.uk/contact.us/ask-ned-how-can-we-help](http://www.dorsetpolice.uk/contact.us/ask-ned-how-can-we-help)

You can also register with 'Dorset Alert' to receive regular information and updates from Dorset Police on criminal activity in your area [www.dorsetalert.co.uk](http://www.dorsetalert.co.uk)

Finally, I would like to thank all the Watch members, coordinators and committee members who freely give their time to our community and keep us relatively crime free.

Roger Long Chairman.

Spring 2019 Edition

### Home Watch Benefits

- Advice on securing your home and protecting your property.
- Regular crime updates.
- Involvement and influence in fighting crime.
- Access to crime prevention aids e.g. property marking kits, Alarms.
- Your Insurance company may reduce your premium
- A Watch newsletter three times a year.

Annual membership fee minimum £1.00

### West Moors Neighbourhood Policing Team



PS Tim Travers



PC Stephen Knight



PCSO James Marsh

### Committee Contact Details

Home Watch	westmoorshomewatch@gmail.com	
Chairman	Roger Long	01202 896939
Membership	David Barrett	01202 892902
Secretary	David Barrett	01202 892902
Treasurer	Sylvia Barrett	01202 892902
Editor	Carol Cox	01202 875867

### Benefits of Home Watch

Home Watch groups are owned and run by the people of their communities, not the police. So the approach your Home Watch takes is entirely up to you. The most impressive Neighbourhood Watch achievements result from members looking closely at the needs of their communities and meeting them with innovative and creative thinking.

A good Home Watch should promote for the benefit of the public good citizenship, community safety and greater public participation in the prevention and detection of crime. It should also promote public support for the work of the police service and other partners in the protection of people and property from, and the prevention of, crime.

### Volunteers Required

Last year West Moors Home Watch was able to recruit several new committee members and as result Roger agreed to delay stepping down as Chairman for one more year.

That year is almost up and a new Chairman is needed. So if you have 2 or 3 hours to spare a week and would be interested in taking a more active role in your Home Watch please read the Job Description on the next page. There are also vacancies for committee members! **Without a new Chairman the West Moors Home Watch will not be able to continue.**

**West Moors Middle School Lunch Club for Senior Citizens** every Tuesday (term time only). Meals are freshly cooked on the premises and served to the guests by the children. Two courses plus a hot drink= £5.50. For more information, call Angie on 01202 872474.

**West Moors Lunch and Friendship Lunch Club** meets in St. Anthony's Church Hall every Wednesday from 11:00am for lunch, afternoon tea and entertainment. For more information call Margaret on 01202 892359 or Pat on 01202 897128.

## Pre-AGM Home Watch Meeting

Please be aware that a pre-AGM meeting of the West Moors Home Watch will take place in the small meeting room at the Memorial Hall on **Saturday 30th March 2019 at 2:30.**

The only item on the agenda is to discuss the recruitment of a new Chairman and committee members to take the Watch into the future. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary no later than 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

All members of the public are welcome to attend and take part.

The AGM will take place at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 12th June at 7:pm. and we hope the police will attend.

## Job Description

### Chairman of West Moors Home Watch (2 or 3 hours per week)

#### Main Duty

Chair 4 Home watch committee meetings per annum and one AGM.

#### Other *Optional* Duties

The opportunity to attend meetings of the following organisations:

#### Dorset Police Crime Prevention Panel – Wimborne

Members of this panel are Chairs of other Watches in Dorset and representatives of the Local Municipal Authority and Dorset Police.

These meetings are an opportunity to give and receive intelligence affecting the crime situation in Dorset.

#### Association of Dorset Watches

Attend quarterly meetings. Guest speakers are senior members of Dorset Police and/or the Police and Crime Commissioner. These meetings give Watch Chairs and members of their committees the opportunity to question the Chief Constable, his senior officers and the PCC regarding the direction that policing is taking in Dorset.

#### Desirable Personal Qualities and Skills

Speak clearly / succinctly	Punctuality	Impartiality and objective	Tactful
Good listener	Encourage and grow new ideas	Enjoy networking	Encourage new members
Ability to delegate	Facilitator		

## Ferndown Neighbourhood Policing Team Report

### General:

Welcome to our Spring Report. With spring comes longer days and better weather (fingers crossed ☺) trips out to local beauty spots and getting the garden in shape for the summer are activities that many of us will be involved in. But as always be crime aware, ensure when you drive out and park before going for a walk that your vehicle is secure and valuables are out of view or better still ask the question do I need to take these with me? If you are looking at sprucing up the garden be sure to use reputable tradespersons and avoid becoming a victim of a Rogue Trader.

### Darker Evening (Be Seen)

With darker evenings thinking about being seen is becoming ever so more important, whether you walk/run or cycle/scooter) being seen on pavements and roads is important to reduce the risk of being injured by colliding with a vehicle, pedestrian or another bike/scooter.

- Wear Bright Clothing or a reflective top
- Ensure you have lights on your bike, scooter. Runners and walkers often place a red light on their bag or clipped to the back of their jacket.
- Remember overhanging trees and foliage can make areas darker than in the ambient light.



### Recent Notable Crimes:

#### Thefts from unattended Motor Vehicles

We have seen an increase in Thefts from unattended Motor Vehicles in the Ferndown area. Please ensure your vehicles are secured when parked even when at home behind locked gates. Remove all valuables from your vehicle, **OUT OF SIGHT IS NO LONGER ENOUGH**, so this means no valuables in the boot, glove box or centre console storage.

Modern vehicles with Keyless entry technology:

Keyless theft sounds almost like the perfect crime – but by following the advice below you can stop it happening to you.

- Always ensure that your car is **properly locked and keep your key/fob away from doors and windows**. This will minimise the chances of a thief finding and amplifying the key's signal.
- **Can you switch off your key?** Check your manual or speak to your dealer to find out if your key has this function.
- Consider using a **steering wheel lock** or if you park your car on the driveway **install a retractable parking post**. Even if the thief is still able to access and start your vehicle these additional measures should prevent them from driving away.
- Consider fitting a **tracking device** to your vehicle if you do not have one already installed.
- Keep your key/fob in a **Defender Signal Blocker Vehicle Fob Pouch (Police Approved)**. These pouches contain signal blocking materials that stop your key transmitting its code, preventing thieves from being able to detect and amplify the signal. The key/fob, however, needs to be placed inside the bag from the moment you blip the locks. You could even keep the key/fob in a metal container as the relay device signal cannot penetrate metal.



### Scams:-

Scams via the Phone and Computer are becoming more and more sophisticated in an attempt to con people out of money. Persons claim to be from statutory organisations including HMRC, DVLA, the Police and many more. Their goal is to acquire information or payment, they may start or follow up with a threat of legal action in an attempt to scare a person in to releasing information or paying them off. Please remember

to never give out your bank or credit card details over the telephone, and do not engage with scams. There are plenty of resources on the Dorset Police website and Action Fraud website, which explain the different types of scams and how to protect yourselves from them.

If you are unsure if the person who has called you is legitimate, politely end the call and call back the company using a number from a bill or other source you know. Wait several minutes before returning the call to ensure the line is clear.

If you believe you have been a victim of a scam please call **Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040** and **Dorset Police** on **101**

### Rogue Traders:-

We have seen a number of rogue traders in the area over the past few months, with one victim losing over £13,000 to a roofing scam where a “moss removal spray” was applied to their roof. Victims are generally being targeted by unannounced visits, however there have been some scams initiated by telephone and followed up by a visit to the victim’s home. The pressure tactics used by these traders often forces vulnerable people into paying several thousands of pounds for unnecessary work, which is usually carried out to a very poor standard if completed at all.

Please also remember NEVER to engage with anyone who cold calls at your doorstep/ even local large firms. NPT and trading standards are currently dealing with several rogue trader incidents in the West Moors area. All of which were from cold calling company’s.

If you would like a Trading Standards “No Door Step Traders” Sticker for your door please call in to the Community Office at the Barrington Theatre, Penny’s Walk, Ferndown.

### Crime Stats:

Crime Stats for past 6 months from [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) (Ferndown Areas inc Ferndown, West Moors, St Leonards & St Ives)

Category	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Anti-social behaviour	15	30	30	35	40	35
Bicycle theft	2	0	9	1	2	2
Burglary	11	10	14	9	13	7
Criminal damage and arson	21	11	8	13	9	23
Drugs	1	0	1	0	2	1
Other crime	1	1	0	1	0	2
Other theft	14	22	16	5	22	11
Possession of weapons	1	1	1	1	0	1
Public order	6	2	4	7	8	10
Robbery	0	1	0	0	0	0
Shoplifting	4	10	0	3	3	5
Theft from the person	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vehicle crime	31	15	14	11	8	27
Violence and sexual offences	56	66	42	49	35	57

Please note some occurrences are still under investigation and may change category

### Crime Prevention:

**Cold Calling / Scams** – If you receive telephone calls or emails from persons you don’t know, do not disclose personal details:-

- If the person claims to be from a service company (Water, Gas, and Electricity) politely say you will call them back. Hang up and then call the company using a number from a bill or other correspondence.
- If you believe you have been a victim of a scam please call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and Dorset Police on 101
- Remember the **Golden Rules**
- **You wouldn’t tell a Stranger on the street your personal / bank details, so don’t do it on the phone or email.**
- **If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**
  - Many scams will say you have won the “World Cup / Global ” Lottery and require you to pay a fee to release the winnings
  - Many Scams via email say you have inherited money or offer an “unbelievable” business opportunity, both require you to send money to secure the opportunity.
- Scams via the Phone and Computer are becoming more and more sophisticated in an attempt to con people out of money. Persons claim to be from statutory organisations including HMRC, DVLA, The Police and many more. Their goal is to acquire information or Payment, they may start or follow up with a threat of legal action in an attempt to scare a person in to releasing information or paying them off. Please remember to never give out your bank or credit card details over the telephone, and do not engage with scams. There are plenty resources on the Dorset Police website and Action Fraud website, which explain the different types of scams and how to protect yourselves from them.
- If you are unsure if the person who has called you is legitimate politely end the call and call back the company using a number from a bill or other source you know. Wait several minutes before returning the call to ensure the line is clear.

**Dorset Alert** - As always we are promoting the **Dorset Alert** messaging service, the two way community messaging system operated by Dorset Police, which allows us to exchange information with local residents. Please promote this service to your watch members where they can sign up for free at [www.dorsetalert.co.uk](http://www.dorsetalert.co.uk)

### County Lines

County Lines is a serious development involving criminal gangs who set up drug dealing operations in a place outside their usual operating area. Gangs will move their drug dealing from big cities to smaller towns and villages. This can have a considerable effect on the communities, bringing with it serious criminal behaviour. Gangs generally focus on supplying class A drugs like heroin or crack cocaine.

The 'Lines' in the name reflects the use of mobile phone lines to facilitate the crime. A County Line invariably involves the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults in order to move and store drugs and money. To do this they will often use coercion, intimidation and violence.

An operating base is an essential feature of County Lines gangs. They will exploit vulnerable people by building up a debt or using threats and violence in order to take over the persons home. This practice is commonly referred to as 'cuckooing'.

Children as young as 12 years old have been reported to be involved but most commonly involved are 15-16 year old boys. Children are used to deliver drugs and money between locations. They will often stay in the house that has been taken over.

Gangs may also target women who are drug users or have engaged in a relationship with a gang member. They can become victims of sexual and domestic violence and can also be forced into delivering drugs or money for the gang.

Vulnerable adults who are in financial difficulties or have mental health problems are the most likely victims of cuckooing, and can also become the sellers of drugs on the streets.

### It could be happening here!

Drugs are on our doorstep: Bournemouth's Daily Echo reported on 10th August that the Office for National Statistics data shows that 81 drug poisoning deaths were registered in the borough between 2015 & 2017, a rate of 14.3 per 100,000 people, compared with a national average rate of 6.6.

This places Bournemouth ahead of major cities including London, Liverpool and Manchester, but alongside a number of other seaside towns.

Previous press reports quoted Dorset Police saying that some of the most important intelligence work is being done by PC's and PCSO's based in towns and villages.

The spokesman said, 'It's old fashioned policing. The intelligence picture comes from the local people, local communities, our neighbourhood policing teams - they are the people who gather our intelligence'.

### Signs to look out for in a young person

- A child or young person going missing from school or home or significant changes in emotional well being.
- The use of drugs and alcohol.
- A young person meeting unfamiliar adults, or a change in their behaviour.
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals associated with gangs.
- Acquiring money or expensive gifts they can't account for.
- Suspicion of self harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries.
- Lone children from outside of the area.

### Signs to look out for in vulnerable people

- More people calling at a local address
- Strangers calling at unsociable hours
- Suspicious people or vehicles at an address

## Community News

### Did you Know?

- You can get a **HOME SAFETY CHECK** from the **Fire Brigade** if you submit a request on Form DFRS 467. These forms can be obtained from Ferndown Fire Station or by calling 01202 896939. If necessary and appropriate, the Brigade will fit a smoke alarm, a heat detector in your kitchen and offer advice on a carbon monoxide detector.
- If you are a **Senior Citizen** and would like to take advantage of the **English National Concessionary Bus Pass System**, application forms are available from West Moors Library or by calling 0300 330 1201.
- Low cost property and personal protection devices are available from the **Dorset Police Community Office** situated in the Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown. More information on opening hours etc. can be obtained from 01202 876219 or [www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org](http://www.ferndowncommunityoffice.org)
- To learn how to recognise scams, enter 'Friends Against Scams' into your search engine where you will find a comprehensive programme that will teach you everything you need to know about how to recognise and avoid most of the every day scams.

### West Moors Parish Council Litter Pick.

West Moors Parish Council will stage a village litter pick on Saturday March 9th and everyone is welcome to attend. Gloves, Litter Picking Sticks and Aprons will be provided.

Meet outside the Co-op in Station Road at 10:30am and refreshments will be available after the event.

### West Moors Youth Club.

West Moors Youth Club (WMYC) is situated on Fryers Field in Bond Avenue, West Moors.

We are fortunate that we have a purpose built club house for the young people of West Moors. We are currently open two evenings a week and at the moment have Yr.6's on a Monday evening, and due to high numbers, Yr. 7 and 8's alternating on a Tuesday evening. We are open from 7:15 pm on both evenings and have a wide range of activities.

If you have any questions or queries, pop into the club and ask us. If you are interested in volunteering either on a club evening or serving on the management committee, please contact us.