



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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NEWSLETTER

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Contacting the Police

Call 999 in an emergency

For a crime in progress; danger to life; someone suspected of a crime is nearby; or violence is being used or threatened.

101 for non-emergency calls

To report crimes that do not require an urgent response; to tell the police about a crime in your area; for advice, feedback and information on police matters; to speak to or arrange a visit from a local police officer; to make enquiries of beat surgeries or local police events; and to get an update on a crime as a victim.

101 is available at all times. Calls from a landline or mobile cost 15p regardless of the call duration.

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Lions International The Lions were first established in Chicago in 1917 by businessman Melvyn Jones who had seen a need for businesses to support local communities. He thought "What if all these men who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition were to put their talents to work improving their communities", and so the founding principle of the Lions Clubs was born. This principle proved so popular that Lions clubs were formed throughout the United States of America. This later extended to Canada, China, Mexico and the Philippines setting up their own clubs. It was the end of WW2 before clubs were formed in Britain. During the Blitz Canadian servicemen in London were horrified at the living conditions of children and through Lions clubs in Canada raised funds to give to the Lions clubs in Britain. The problem was there were no Lions clubs here to use the monies raised. The Queen mother (at the time Queen Elizabeth) who was chairman of the Church of England Children's Society arranged for the society to distribute the funds on behalf of the Canadian Lions.

(Lions presentation continued on page 3)

Our thanks to all the members who attended the AGM on 22 September at the Church on the Heath at The Key, Elvetham Heath. In addition to the usual agenda items, the meeting included a presentation on the Lions International organisation and Fleet Lions by Roger Munday. This edition provides our readers with the main extracts from the AGM.

Annual General Meeting - 17 September 2015

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed 28 members which included five members of the committee. He remarked that we continued to grow our membership, albeit modestly, and mentioned that the recruitment of coordinators was paramount to the success of Fleet and District Neighbourhood Watch.

Another year had gone by and it was hoped that we were still helping to defeat the criminals. This despite the bad side of the internet, particularly with children's safety in mind and the various new scams that seemed to appear on a weekly basis. The most distressing aspect was that any number of us appeared not to take our personal security seriously; we still gave out personal information, including bank details, far too easily to internet scams and bogus telephone callers who were very skilled in seeking out the vulnerable members of our community, particularly the elderly and lonely people.

We as a community did not go the extra mile in securing our property and then we complained when the justice system did not give what we considered were the appropriate sentences to the criminals. However, with increased personal security some of the crime would disappear. This may sound a somewhat simplistic reaction, but I am sure that our police colleagues would agree that some of the fight against crime must be down to the individual. We could be more observant, watch out for our neighbours more and review our own household security. It would give me as Chairman great pleasure to report at the next AGM that there had been a significant drop in crime levels.

Let's be positive! The police and local authority needed our help and by working together we could move our area from being a low crime area to a no crime area. Unlikely you may have thought, but not impossible. Let's show the burglars, car thieves, scammers and cold-callers that we meant business. Talk to us as a committee, to the police or to your local authority if you need help or information. The Neighbourhood Watch would continue to work with you, our volunteer force, in helping the local community. Help us to help you by helping yourselves.

David Bunclark - Chairman

NHW Coordinator Wanted

We are most grateful to those who have recently volunteered to become senior coordinators and coordinators. We are still short of a coordinator for Rounton Road which would only involve the delivery of about 60 newsletters four times a year. If you are interested in volunteering for this post or if you would like to assist the NHW in some other way please contact our Secretary (his details are on page 4).

Annual General Meeting 2016 - Police Presentation

Police Sgt Rob Wallis introduced himself and explained that he was the Sgt for Hart South and that he looked after the Neighbourhood Policing Team based at the District Council offices in Fleet. He gave an overview of the organisation as there had been significant changes since the 2015 AGM. Firstly there was a new Chief Constable, Olivia Pinkney, who had come from Sussex. There was also a new deputy Chief Constable, Sara Glen, and a newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner, Michael Lane. All three newcomers were currently settling into the organisation and formulating their plans as to where they wanted to take the organisation and what their priorities would be. These changes came on top of the restructuring which took place last year due to the spending review. The good news was that we did not receive any further cuts to our budgets earlier this year. Please be reassured however that at grass roots level we were still here as your neighbourhood policing team and would continue to focus on the priorities that were important to you. There had also been changes to the team across Hart, the first was the introduction of Insp Karen McManus who previously had been the district commander for Rushmoor. Chief Inspector Matt Reeves had moved to Basingstoke. Fleet had PC Noel Griffiths, PC Dan Lehec and they had been joined by PC Nick Lees from Basingstoke. We had four PCSOs who covered Fleet: PCSO Max Clayton, PCSO Sarah Owen, PCSO Ben Bales and PCSO Ben Allman. We also had a further three officers who covered Hart Rural South and they were able to come into the town when required to assist in dealing with issues.

Sgt Wallis outlined how his team had performed over the last 12 months. Fleet had suffered 35 residential Burglaries which were similar to last year's numbers. Of those 35, 11 were via rear patio doors where locks were snapped. The good news is that three people were arrested for this crime series and remanded to prison. However, you should ensure that additional security was added to patio doors in the form of anti-snap cylinder locks and additional bolts and that your back garden was as secure as possible by bolting and locking side and rear gates. Five were attempts where no entry had been gained. Seven involved jewellery being stolen, some of which was of a sentimental value and could not be replaced. Please do consider hiding jewellery around the home, or installing a safe securely fixed to the fabric of the building rather than leaving the jewellery on display on the dressing table. Ensure that it was suitably insured with any distinguishing marks recorded and that it was photographed. There were two burglaries which involved cars being stolen from driveways where keys had been left near to the front door enabling the burglar to fish the keys off the table using an implement poked through the letter box. Please consider fitting a letter box deflector or post collector on the inside of door. Burglaries to premises other than dwellings, including sheds and garages, fell from 61 last year to 42 this year. There had been 22 thefts from garages, 10 thefts from sheds and 10 thefts from commercial premises. The most common items stolen were bikes and tools, plus garden equipment and DIY tools. Other items taken were golf clubs and off-road motor cycles. We had a spike in offences between the New Year and Spring, after which commission rates had fallen considerably. He had given crime prevention advice previously for garage and shed security so he did not intend to repeat it at this meeting; however, if anyone wanted further advice they should look on the Hampshire Constabulary website under crime prevention or the Fleet NHW website at some of the previous newsletters.

Theft from motor vehicles had increased over the past year to 64 offences. Twenty-seven of these had been to works vans where tools had been targeted. The majority of these occurred in local hotel car parks. Work was ongoing to tackle this series of offences. The next biggest item stolen had been wing mirrors which accounted for eight of the offences. This was followed by number plates, bags and telephones. Over the summer there had been a series of offences at Fleet Pond car parks where vehicles were targeted. Most of the vehicles which had been broken into had items on display. Following an increase in police patrols at relevant times, Hampshire Alerts being sent out and additional signage being erected, these offences tailed off. Of the 64 offences it appeared that only three were as a result of the vehicle being left insecure which was very pleasing to see. There had been seven thefts of vehicles over the period, four of these were motor cycles, one had been taken in domestic circumstances, one involved the theft of a vehicle with the key which had been mistakenly left in the ignition and the other theft was a van.

Anti-social behaviour had remained fairly steady in comparison to last year, even with the better summer we have had this year. There had been no specific hotspots identified, other than the usual parks and open spaces which were patrolled throughout the summer and we continued to do so. Again this year the team would be working late shifts on Halloween and Bonfire Night to deal with any ASB. As always, please call us to report issues before they get out of hand. Sgt Wallis continued with some crime prevention advice focused on the types of crime and incidents the Police had seen increase in Fleet. At last year's AGM Trading Standards gave a presentation. This covered areas such as doorstep crime and rogue traders and I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to be on the lookout for these types of offences and remind you

(AGM - Police Presentation continued on Page 4)

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(Lions presentation continued from page 1)

The Queen was so grateful to the Canadian Lions that she sent her equerry Sir Edward Wyndham to Canada to thank them for their help. He was invited to visit the headquarters in Chicago of the Lions Clubs International to see what the Lions were all about. He was so impressed with what he saw that in 1950 he set up the first Lions club in Britain and Ireland. The Lions clubs are active in 202 countries with 1.3 million members. The Lions members participate in all sorts of schemes to help people in need, and they have been particularly active in a worldwide campaign to prevent blindness. Fundraising for this challenge raised over \$200 million and they have probably saved the sight of 200 million people worldwide. They have also been involved in assisting in disasters and emergencies throughout the world.

The Fleet Lions are involved in raising funds for charities by running local events such as: Firework Night, Beer Fest, Fleet Carnival and the Fleet Half Marathon. The Lions have taken part in the Fleet Carnival for many years. They participate in the Fleet Festival and the Fleet Food Fair but they do not run them. They raise between £30,000 and £35,000 each year which is distributed mainly to local charities and people in need, but also to the Lions International Foundation for international disaster relief and other worthy causes.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with the Lions please go along to one of their meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the Grange Social Club or call Roger Munday on 01252 641624.

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Watch out and try to help your neighbours and your local Community



That's what our Neighbourhood Watch is all about

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(AGM - Police Presentation continued from Page 2)

of some basic advice to prevent you or a neighbour from becoming a victim of crime.

- Always use the door chain when answering the door, if you are not sure do not open the door.
- Always check the credentials of unknown callers. Do not phone the number on the ID card, use a phone book or a bill.
- Never employ cold-calling doorstep traders or engage with cold callers on the phone.
- Do not keep substantial sums of money in the home.
- Always keep front and back doors locked.
- **LOCK STOP CHAIN and CHECK** - if unsure do not open the door.
- Consider joining or setting up a No Cold Calling Zone.
- Report any suspicious callers or activity to the police immediately.
- Keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, friends and family.

Please call 101 to advise of any unexpected callers - this would give the Police a better chance of building a picture of where potential criminals were operating. Sgt Wallis said that recently they had been called to a report of doorstep sellers in Fleet who had become abusive to a resident when they refused to buy goods at the door. This allowed the Police to respond immediately and deter the seller from being abusive to further Fleet residents. Criminals had become much more sophisticated in the way they committed crime and other types of crime we had seen occur in Fleet over the last year had been what we call courier fraud. Some of the most common encountered were as follows:

- Purporting to be the Police either investigating fraudulent transactions or indicating that someone had been arrested after fraudulent use of the victim's bank card or a cloned card and they therefore required the victim's assistance to help investigate the matter.
- Purporting to be a bank employee and suggesting there had been unusual activity on their account.
- Purporting to be a bank fraud investigator (investigating the bank) and suggesting to the individual that their money was at risk and in order to secure it they needed to immediately transfer it to a "safe account" (mule account).
- Purporting to be a bank employee and suggesting to the victim that some fraudulent deposits had been made into their accounts and they needed to withdraw this money in order to secure it for the investigation.

Fraudsters generally arranged the collection of the victim's bank card through a "courier" having obtained the PIN number through a very convincing earlier phone conversation. The victim was requested to place the card in an envelope and seal it. This courier was often a taxi driver, although on occasions it had been known for the courier to be an associate. Please be on your guard for this type of offence and remember police or bank staff will never ask you to divulge your PIN number directly to them.

Sgt Wallis recommended that members signed up for Hampshire Alerts via the Hampshire Constabulary website, whereby you can receive your choice of emails, text messages, and voice mails on your home phone about incidents happening in your area. You can choose what information you receive by setting your preferences. The Police send out alerts regularly following certain crime types, so you can be on your guard and protect yourself from what is happening in the area where it is happening, not a few days later when you read about it in the paper. You can also check where crime is happening on www.crimereports.co.uk. Lastly, he thanked all the members of the NHW especially the coordinators, senior coordinators and the committee for their continued hard work throughout the year, making Fleet a safer place in which to live.

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Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch website: www.fleetnhw.co.uk

Police (Fleet) website: www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/my-neighbourhood/northern/hart-and-rushmoor/fleet/fleet

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