



# FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

[www.fleetnhw.co.uk](http://www.fleetnhw.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 22 Number 3  
Summer 2016

### 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.

#### 0800 555 111 Crimestoppers

Free & anonymous crime-related calls

### NHW Senior Coordinators and Coordinators wanted

We are still seeking a volunteer to take over as Senior Coordinator for NHW Area L. It covers these residential areas: Bryanstone Close, Kenmore Close, Lingmala Grove, Rounton Road, Vivian Close, Barbara Close, Gordon Avenue, Northfield Road and Silverpark Close. There are nine Coordinators to help, so the task would simply involve delivering newsletters to these Coordinators four times a year.

We also need a Coordinator for part of NHW Area K. This area covers Cavendish Road, Langley Close, Christchurch Close and Cavendish Gardens. It would only involve delivery of 50 newsletters four times a year.

If you are interested in either of these roles please contact our Secretary (details on page 4).

## Chairman's Report

As I write this, summer is upon us although my own garden looks more suited to swans and ducks!

I am sometimes asked what Neighbourhood Watch actually does. Well, we do not walk around with night sticks looking for wrongdoers (although some suggest that we should), but we do try to notice the unusual. For example, people or possessions in the wrong place. We also try to talk regularly to the police or local authorities about our concerns. Alone, we cannot stop crime but I hope that by being vigilant and working closely with our neighbours and friends we might keep this as a low crime area.

Look out for those close to you, especially the elderly or vulnerable. Don't be afraid to remind others about their security. It is in their own interests to lock up their houses and possessions, and to constantly be aware of the scams and fraudsters trying to relieve them of their cash or valuables. And don't forget our NHW signs. Locally they are the visible evidence of our presence.

Enjoy your summer but do please make a note in your diary and come and join us at our AGM on Thursday 22 September. We hope that it will be an interesting evening and we would like to encourage as many NHW members as possible to attend. The details are shown below.

*David Bunclark - Chairman*

## FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at

**The Church on the Heath  
The Key, Elvetham Heath  
Fleet GU51 1HA**

on

**Thursday 22 September 2016 at 7.30 pm**

Apart from the usual agenda items, it is planned that the AGM this year will feature a presentation either on 'Scouting in the Community' by the Group Scout Leader of the - 22nd Group or on the Rotary Club of Fleet depending upon the availability of the speaker.

All members of the Fleet and District Neighbourhood Watch are invited to attend the AGM. Any NHW member who would like to put forward an item for inclusion in this year's agenda or propose an amendment to the Constitution is requested to contact the Chairman in writing by: **Friday 26 August**.

***Please note the change of venue from previous AGMs***

## POLICE & CRIME REPORT

The great British Summer is here again and we have had one of the wettest Junes on record to accompany Royal Ascot, the Glastonbury Festival, Henley and Wimbledon. This has probably been welcomed by the keen gardeners amongst you and it may also have had a positive impact on our crime figures, although I would rather put that down to your increased vigilance. Since my last report, house burglary offences have fallen along with those to sheds and garages. This is good news as the seasonal trend is usually for these types of offences to increase. The reporting period is April to June for all the crime statistics mentioned in this report.

There have been six house burglaries recorded which is a fall of one third from the last period. Only one of these showed signs of forced entry, which demonstrates that if you secure your property the would-be burglar will usually look for an easier target. Two of the burglaries involved the same victim, so consequently they have received support from my team and other agencies to help them to improve the security of their property. Two of the burglaries were suspected of being linked, where laptops, tablets and jewellery were stolen. The items stolen were left on display within the house. My advice would be to put expensive items out of sight or consider locking them in a safe bolted to the floor.

There have only been five burglaries to sheds, garages and out buildings since the last report, which is a fall of 17 crimes. This is a huge reduction, although I wish there had been none at all. Two of the burglaries were to garages where tools and a case of wine were taken, and one was to a shed where a mountain bike was stolen. The other two were to commercial premises where four chain saws were taken and cash was taken from an office.

There have been 14 thefts from vehicles reported over the period. Five of these were thefts or attempted thefts of tools from works' vans, four of which occurred overnight while the vans were parked in hotel car parks. Six of the others involved thefts of wing mirror glass while the vehicles were parked in Linkway. The others were a theft of a set of number plates, theft of clothing and fuel siphoned from a vehicle.

Over the period there has been one report of a theft of a motorcycle which was taken from a car park.

I am delighted to welcome and introduce to you a new member of staff to our team here in Fleet. PC Nick Lees has joined us from Basingstoke and his presence increases the number of PCs we have working in the town to four. PC Lees comes to us with 11 years experience in a neighbourhood policing role. So please stop and speak to him when you see him out and about and I am sure that he will do all he can to assist you.

Summer time and the holidays normally sees an increase in anti-social behaviour which is often associated with school age children. Can I please remind parents to ensure that they know where their children are at all times for their safety and what they are doing. Large groups of children can often appear intimidating, especially to the older section of the community. The Neighbourhood Policing Team at Fleet will continue to patrol areas where young people gather in order to engage with them, ensure they feel safe and provide reassurance to the wider community. If you experience any incidents of anti-social behaviour please report it via 101 which will help us to focus our patrols in the right areas.

May I take this opportunity to offer members some seasonal advice because during the warmer weather there is often an increase in cold callers and doorstep criminals offering gardening and general property maintenance work at your door. They tend to call at your home unannounced, often claiming to be from a utility company (water board, etc), or claiming to be working in the area and to have noticed a problem with your house that supposedly needs fixing. They may offer to do work for you or say that they need to check something in your home, so they will ask to come in to have a look around. They may search your home for items to steal, or they

*(Police & Crime Report continued on Page 4)*

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**Internet Fraud** In a recent incident an elderly female lost over £50,000 after giving an unknown male sufficient personal details which enabled him to set up online banking on her account. She bought a computer which became infected with a virus and she was befriended by the person who then convinced her to hand over her personal details and a consent form to set up online banking. Money was then transferred freely from this account without her consent until it was flagged by her bank to the police. The police are reminding residents to be vigilant and to heed the following advice to help prevent this type of crime.

1. An account takeover can happen when a fraudster or computer criminal poses as a genuine customer, gains control of an account and then proceeds to make unauthorised transactions. Any account could be vulnerable to a takeover by fraudsters; including bank, credit card, email and other service providers. Online bank accounts are usually taken over as a result of phishing, spyware or malware scams. This is a form of internet crime or computer crime. Fraud has been committed if money has been lost.
2. Banks and card issuers will never contact you by email to ask for personal or financial details. Never respond to such a message: report it to your bank.
3. Emails from any unknown or dubious sources should be deleted without opening. Do not open any attachments. To report a fraud or online crime please contact Action Fraud: <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

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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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(Police & Crime Report continued from Page 2)

may pressure you into paying them cash for work which you have not requested or agreed to. Sometimes doorstep criminals pose as police officers, or they may even say that they are looking for a lost child or pet and that they need to look around your house. These criminals are very convincing and they may, and often do, seem plausible and they prefer to target people in their own homes. Hampshire Constabulary works closely with Trading Standards to tackle these offenders, and there are several simple steps you can take to protect yourself from this kind of crime.

Please take note of the following advice to ensure that you stay safe:

- Don't open the door to someone you don't recognise or someone you are not expecting.
- If you do feel you need to answer your door, remember to:
- Lock the back door before you open the front door. Doorstep criminals often work in pairs with one of them distracting you at the front door while an accomplice enters your home through the back door.
- Put the door chain or door-bar on before opening the door so that you can see who it is before you fully open your door.
- Ask to see the caller's identification. A genuine caller will not mind showing you their I.D.
- Close and lock your door and call the number of the company they claim to be from to check if they have sent someone to your home. Remember to use a number from a bill or the telephone book so that you know that it is a genuine telephone number.
- Remember, even if the caller is genuine you do not need to allow them into your home. Politely ask them to arrange a future appointment. You can then ask a friend or family member to be present.
- You can arrange to have passwords set up with your various utility companies. So that subsequently when a representative calls they should then be able to repeat the agreed confidential word to you.
- If a suspicious caller knocks at your door, call 999 if they are on your property or if they have just left. Call 101 if it is after the event.

We recently ran an online survey to seek the views from the residents in our area on what you would like to see us spend our time dealing with from a community perspective. We received an excellent response and we are currently reviewing your replies. Once this is complete I will let you know the priorities and where our areas of focus will lie.

May I wish you all a great, long, hot and safe summer.

Kind regards  
Sergeant Rob Wallis

### Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

**Chairman:** David Bunclark Tel: 01252621684 email: chairman@fleetnhw.co.uk  
**Secretary:** Tom Callaghan Tel: 01252811943 email: secretary@fleetnhw.co.uk  
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**Hart DC Rep:** Councillor Jenny Radley email: jenny.radley@hart.gov.uk  
**Police:** Sergeant Rob Wallis Tel: 101 email: fleet.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk **Ewshot:** Sue Freeman Tel: 01252851534 (Not on the Committee)  
**Community Safety:** Caroline Ryan Tel: 01252774476 email: caroline.ryan@communitysafetynh.org (Not on the Committee)

**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

Please send inputs to the Editor. Deadline for the next edition: **30 September 2016**

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