



# FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

**NEWSLETTER**  
Volume 28 Number 1  
Winter 2021-2022

## A quick guide to reporting crime

### Police emergency - call 999 if:

There is danger to life  
A crime is happening now or has just happened  
You have immediate concerns for safety  
There is a dangerous incident on the road/motorway  
You see something suspicious that needs attention

### Not an emergency – call 101

Crimes that are not in progress  
Non urgent information  
Criminal damage/theft/theft from vehicle (can be reported at [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk))  
General information & advice [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

**Calls to 101 are now free**

### Crimestoppers

If you don't want to talk to police you can call 0800 555 111 anonymously. This is NOT an emergency service. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

### Reporting Fraud and Scams

Call Police on 101 quoting:

'Operation Signature'

Keep up to date at Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>  
Tel - 0300 123 2040

Citizens Advice Consumer Service  
Tel - 0808 223 1133

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)  
Postal and competition scams  
[www.thinkjessica.com](http://www.thinkjessica.com)

### Doorstep Callers/Rogue Traders

Never employ passing tradesmen  
Know your rights e.g. 14 day cooling off period  
Contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)  
Tel - 0808 223 1133  
Tell Trading Standards if you have been called on by doorstep callers with as much information as you can  
If you feel intimidated or threatened call 999

**\*\*Let's improve the circulation of the E-newsletters\*\***

**Please send a copy by email to your local friends, colleagues and neighbours**

From: John Hayward-Cripps  
CEO Neighbourhood Watch Network, Central Support Team  
Special edition of the Neighbourhood Watch logo launched to celebrate 40 years

For 40 years we have supported and enabled individuals and communities to be connected, active and safe. We have grown in strength since the first UK-based NHW scheme was established in Mollington, Cheshire in 1982 to the largest UK crime prevention charity that we are today. **In recognition of this milestone and to celebrate our rich history, we are thrilled to launch a special-edition NHW logo to be used throughout 2022.**

## Chairman's Report

Another very difficult year is behind us, and I wonder how many more we will all have to endure before we can beat this wretched virus. We have not been able to have direct contact with many of our members during the last 12 months, and the pandemic has seriously curtailed our involvement via the regular hard copies of the NHW newsletter.

Several of our coordinators and senior coordinators have sadly had to retire as a result of advancing age or, in some cases, ill health. Also, the ongoing risk of covid has made the prospect of continuing with the newsletter circulation we once enjoyed very difficult to maintain. The distribution via email and the work of our editor has been extraordinarily useful, but we are probably only reaching about half of the 6000 homes of members who previously received hard copies of the newsletters. However, we have made an effort to establish our presence in some of the new housing developments, and have secured a small number of new members on Hareshill (along from Calthorpe Park School), and we hope that more will register an interest as occupancy improves. We will also circulate a flyer for their sales brochure.

I do appreciate that we have been somewhat tardy in changing or, where required, refurbishing signs, but when health and weather permit another effort will be made. Please let us know where any signs need attention.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of our members a Healthy and Happy New Year.

*David Bunclark - Chairman*

## **E-newsletters - please sign up now**

Because of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and to safeguard our members, we have decided that, as with all recent editions, this Winter 2021-2022 newsletter will only be distributed by email.

### **How do I receive E-newsletters?**

It is easy: you can sign up as a subscriber free of charge on the NHW website ([fleetnhw.co.uk](http://fleetnhw.co.uk)) or send your email address to me, my contact details are on page 4.

You will then receive regular quarterly emails with the NHW E-newsletter attached.

*Editor - Alan MacGregor*

Statistics for NHW for period November – December 2021

**Changes**

With Sgt Rob Wallis officially leaving us in mid-January and our temporary Sgt, Nikki Hopkins who has done a sterling job filling in for Rob until his replacement arrived, also leaving us at the end of January, we can now formally welcome our new Police Sergeant, Helen Wentworth, who will be based in Fleet for the foreseeable future. Sgt Wentworth is an ex-Hampshire officer moving back from a stint in Surrey. She has been both a PCSO and a PC in the district and is passionate about Neighbourhood Policing. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming her and wishing her all the best in the role of the Police Sergeant at Fleet.

**Burglary – Dwelling/Outbuilding**

There have been three residential burglaries, which is down from the last reporting period. One of a bike that was taken out of a shed that was closed but not locked, and the other two were by persons who were known to the victims and had access to the house. This reduction could be due to our efforts over the last month during which Hampshire Constabulary has been running Operation BANISH. This operation was put in place to help deter residential burglaries, specifically during the holiday period. It is actioned by dedicated officers working on varying shifts who have been assigned to conduct high visibility patrols in hotspot areas and to deal specifically with any burglary related incidents if and when they occur.

**Theft from Vehicle**

There have been eight thefts from vehicles, which is no change since the last report. However, considering the time frame I would say that this is not an encouraging number. Five of these were of tools and items taken from vehicles when they were parked up in private car parks such as a pub, Premier Inn or a service station. Two were of catalytic converters and one was of number plates.

**Theft of Vehicle**

There have been seven vehicles reported as stolen since the last reporting period. Which again, given the short period, is a high number. Four of these were high value BMW and Mercedes from driveways and they happened over a two-night period, with one BMW and one Mercedes being taken each night. One theft was a transit van and the other was a Ford tipper which was stolen and has since been recovered and returned to the owner. There was also a report of a vehicle that was reported as stolen but it turned out to have been moved by the council due to parking restrictions and it was recovered a couple of days later.

**Theft of Pedal Cycle**

There were five incidents of thefts of bicycles, which is an increase from the last report. These were thefts from a residential garden, a shed, a communal area as well as a locked bike store. One other was reported as being taken from the station car park, which was secured over a weekend. Only two of these reports mentioned the bikes being locked and secured.

**Theft**

There have been nine cases where thefts have been reported. The majority of these reports were of people reporting their parcels being taken from their porches, doorsteps and outside properties. One was of a wreath being stolen from a front door and the other was of items being taken by someone visiting the property. There was one incident where bank cards were taken from a victim during a scam at the Church Road Car Park and subsequently used to withdraw cash.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

Anti-Social Behaviour reports were down from the last report to only 15 reported incidents. This could be down to the colder weather with fewer large groups congregating in public areas. The majority of these incidents were of youths congregating in large groups, smoking or acting in an anti-social manner. There were also a few reports of cars and motorbikes racing up and down in the train station car park.

*(Police & Crime Report continued on Page 3)*

***We currently have advertising space available in this E-newsletter which is published and distributed to households in the local area four times a year.***

***If you are interested in advertising with us either in the Fleet & District NHW E-newsletter, on the NHW website or both, please contact our editor whose details are shown on page 4.***

(Police & Crime Report continued from Page 2)

Below is some crime prevention advice that we pass to members of the public:

## **Crime Prevention Advice**

### **Doors and Windows**

- ◆ Fit strong locks to external doors and windows, and make sure they are locked.
- ◆ Remove the keys and keep them out of sight and in a safe place.
- ◆ Fit five-lever mortise deadlocks (British Standard BS3621) to all external doors.
- ◆ If you are replacing or fitting new doors and windows, get ones that are certified to British Standard BS7950 (windows) and PAS 24-1 (doors).
- ◆ Make sure the doors and frames are strong and in good condition. The doors should be at least 44mm thick.
- ◆ Consider using laminated glass (for windows) as this is much harder to break.
- ◆ Consider fitting a letterbox cage or other restrictor to prevent thieves from reaching through to open the door.
- ◆ Fit a door-chain or bar and door viewer (spy-hole). Use them every time someone calls.
- ◆ Do not leave a door-chain or bar on all the time in case you need to get out in an emergency.
- ◆ Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat, in a flowerpot or behind a loose brick - thieves know to look there first.

### **The Home**

- ◆ Close windows and doors completely when you go out. Lock them.
- ◆ If you have UVPC Doors, ensure that you lock the door with the key. Please do not just pull the inside door handle up!
- ◆ Make sure you set up timer switches and dusk to dawn lighting for after dark.
- ◆ Place glass minders on doors and windows that are vulnerable.
- ◆ Take keys to bed with you.
- ◆ Have a free Fire Safety Check which are available from your local Fire Service.
- ◆ Consider having a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your immediate area.
- ◆ Store information holding your ID upstairs out of the way. Bills, credit cards, chequebooks, anything with your address and name on including envelopes, passport and driving licence.
- ◆ Shred paperwork with any details relating to you that are to be thrown away.
- ◆ Mark your property with your postcode and house number/name, electrical items, tools, ornaments of no antique value (seek advice from a reputable dealer as to the best way to properly mark antiques – smart water, micro dotting, etc are best).
- ◆ Note all serial numbers of electrical or gadget equipment and register them on **[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)**.
- ◆ Photograph the rooms in your house showing items.
- ◆ Photograph your jewellery and items around the house. Store pictures or discs and give copies to either a trusted family member or a good friend. Store in an attic or safe place (e.g. place behind furniture against a wall upstairs).
- ◆ Keep a telephone upstairs or in your bedroom.
- ◆ If you hear noises in your house, call out pretending that you have someone else with you. Then Dial 999 as soon as you can.

(Police & Crime Report continued on Page 4)



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*I am open for business and  
fully compliant with Covid-19 regulations*  
**Julie Hilton-Reece**  
BSc(Hons)pod MChS  
Podiatry | Reflexology

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☎ 07518 222779 | 01252 810409  
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**hcpc**  
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## **PhoneJoan**

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Odd Jobs & Repairs / Cleaning / Ironing / Gardening  
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and much more...

**Say “Goodbye” to Chores and Hassle  
Say “Hello” to a Better Lifestyle**

Call Joan on 01252 612033  
or visit our website: [www.phonejoan.co.uk](http://www.phonejoan.co.uk)

*(Police & Crime Report continued from Page 3)*

## **The Outside**

- ◆ Lock garden gates in the centre of the gate with a hasp or chain and a closed shackle lock.
- ◆ Put trellis along the top of fences and gates which give access to the rear of the property.
- ◆ Dusk to dawn lighting where lighting required.
- ◆ Plant thorny/prickly vegetation under windows, at the base of drainpipes and around perimeters of your home. They are a natural deterrent.
- ◆ Use window boxes.
- ◆ Secure sheds with a shed alarm and/or a personal attack alarm attached to the inside of the door hooked across to the shed wall.
- ◆ To prevent external hinges being removed, use strap hinges secured by coach bolts.
- ◆ Put a closed shackle lock on your shed.
- ◆ Secure tools inside with a strong chain and lock.
- ◆ On the inside of your garage, you could also put a shed alarm or attach personal attack alarms that pull the pin when the door is opened.
- ◆ Lock garages.
- ◆ Secure tools to the wall.
- ◆ Bolt ladders securely to the wall or garage roof where design allows.
- ◆ Park your car in the garage if you have one.

Crime Prevention Advice is given free of charge without the intention of creating a contract. Neither does the Home Office nor Hampshire Constabulary take any responsibility for the advice given.

The HART district remains a safe place to live and work; however, to remain proactive and by informing you of some basic crime prevention advice, we hope that, with your help, we can further reduce crime throughout our area.

*If you would like to discuss ANY matters pertaining to the above or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.*

Wishing everyone who is part of the Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch a very happy New Year and all the best for 2022 – from all of us at the Fleet Neighbourhoods Police Team.

*Sgt Nikki Hopkins and PCSO Sam Page*

The Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch does not accept liability for any of the statements, actions or default on the part of any of the articles or advertisers in this or other editions of the Newsletter

### **Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members**

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**Police: Sgt Helen Wentworth** Tel: 101 email: fleet.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

**Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch website:** [www.fleetnhw.co.uk](http://www.fleetnhw.co.uk)

**Police (Fleet) website:** <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/hampshire-constabulary/fleet/>

**Police Twitter:** @FleetPolice **Police Facebook:** @HartSouthPolice

Please send inputs to the Editor. Deadline for the next edition: **31 March 2022**

**Please help the Emergency Services, Delivery Companies, Postal Services and others** Please display your house number or house name clearly so that it can be seen from the road in daylight and when it is dark. With the increase in home deliveries during the pandemic, identifying house numbers has become a real issue for the drivers in some of our roads, streets, avenues and closes.

**Please keep your hedges trimmed and help the pedestrians** With us all being encouraged to get fresh air and go out for a walk, we are receiving more reports of pavements throughout our area where it is difficult, or occasionally impossible, to walk side by side because of the overgrown hedges, and the only way to pass someone is to step out into the road - potentially a dangerous situation.