



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER
Volume 27 Number 4
Autumn 2021

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)
General information & advice 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
Postal and competition scams 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
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

****Attention, please sign up now for your E-newsletter****

Our thanks to all the NHW members who attended this year's AGM on 23rd September at The Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet. This edition provides our readers with the main extracts from the AGM.

Annual General Meeting - 23 September 2021

Chairman's Report

It has been a very difficult two years for all of us, and I hope that few have been medically challenged.

We felt that it was necessary to suspend deliveries of the hard copies of our regular newsletter, although our editor has still managed to produce an electronic version which hopefully has kept many of us in contact.

This AGM is our first for two years, your committee having decided to cancel last year's meeting with so many covid restrictions in force, the difficulty of contacting everyone and mixing, and the added problem of finding a venue willing to accept a larger number of people. All Saints School do not want to entertain outside organisations, and it also proved difficult to book the Council Chamber with the numbers likely to attend unknown.

Our committee meetings have reverted to Zoom with our members learning to cope with the technology. However, it has proved difficult to maintain contact with some senior coordinators who have retired, moved, resigned, or sadly are no longer with us. If we do return to the circulation of hard copies of the newsletter we will have a problem with deliveries in some areas. At present the editor and I share that load. We can discuss the newsletter situation later within this meeting.

Our numbers have increased modestly, but we are as yet unsure of numbers going forward now that we can meet again. However, we are confident of maintaining our presence, and involving the new estates where possible. We remain optimistic and we will do our best to continue to be vigilant along with the police and the local authority.

Please don't forget the NHW signs. We are aware of several awaiting replacement, etc. and with restrictions removed we will make an effort to upgrade them as soon as possible.

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 Autumn 2021 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) 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

Annual General Meeting 2021 - Police Report

Good evening ladies and gentlemen - I am Sgt Rob Wallis and I am the Sgt for Hart South and I look after the Neighbourhood Policing Team based at the District Council offices in Fleet. Our senior management team has changed. We still have Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney but, following her retirement earlier this month, Sara Glen has been replaced by Ben Snuggs as our Deputy Chief Constable, and our newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner is Donna Jones following her election in May. We have had an interesting year coming out of and going back into lockdown a number of times, I hope we have seen the back of it. In my 2019 speech I mentioned 'Boris's 20,000 extra bobbies', and we now have the benefit of that, some of whom have been posted to Hart which has seen an increase in our numbers. We had two officers join us in April from training school, PC Chris Doy and PC Craig Halsall. They have recently completed their initial tutor phase and are now about to commence independent patrols. They are on the 3-year degree programme, so will spend some of the next couple of years carrying out academic studies alongside their police training. We have two further officers who are currently in training and hopefully will be independent before Christmas. We have said goodbye to PC Noel Griffiths who was well known in the community having worked here for almost 10 years. He has gone on to help assess and train some of the new students. We have also lost PCSO Ben Bales who has joined the Wiltshire police as an officer and we are about to lose PCSO Allman in November, but he won't be going far as he is coming back as a PC in the Hart and Rushmoor District. We have also lost PC Emma Pragnell to a new role. We have been joined by PCSO Page who has been making a real impact in the community, but more about that later. Locally, Chief Inspector Halfacre remains as the District Commander for Hart and Rushmoor and the Hart District is covered by Inspector Lovegrove. I will be leaving the Hart District after 6 years here and moving on to another role within Hampshire, so this will be my last AGM with you all.

Moving on to how we have performed over the last 12 months. Fleet has seen 23 residential burglaries which is a fall on last year's numbers. This is great news and I'm hoping that it is down to residents playing their part in being more vigilant and increased security in their homes. Some of the fall will be down to Covid-19 with more people being at home for more of the time, limiting the opportunities for burglars. Of these burglaries, entry has been gained most commonly at the rear of the property by smashing glass or by forcing entry using a tool. Jewellery has been the most common item targeted, some of which has been of sentimental value. Money has also been taken and cars have been taken from the residents' driveways after keys were stolen from inside the property. Several arrests and convictions have been secured which is good news and might account for our lower offending rate. Please ensure rear access to your property is as secure as possible by adding bolts and locks to side gates and that the perimeter of your rear garden is difficult to access. Consider planting a spikey

(Annual General Meeting Police Report continued on Page 3)

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We currently have advertising space available in this newsletter which is published and distributed to about 6000 households in the local area four times a year.

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

(Annual General Meeting Police Report continued from Page 2)

hedge around it and most would-be burglars will look for an easier target. Remember if you are out, to make it appear that you are at home by leaving some lights on or use timer lights and think about installing CCTV and a camera door bell. Keep jewellery hidden from view, preferably in a safe fixed to the fabric of the building and take photographs of it so that it is identifiable and record serial numbers of high value items. Other items taken were electronic items such as tablets and laptops, telephones, alcohol, sunglasses and car keys. In two of these burglaries, where entry was gained, nothing was stolen which may be down to the homeowner keeping high risk items out of sight and well hidden.

Burglaries to sheds, garages and shared bike stores numbered 14 over the last year which is just over one a month, which is another big fall in commission rates. Items taken included a pressure washer, motor bikes, some expensive pedal cycles, a lawn mower and other gardening equipment. There has been some recent success with three people being arrested with the recovery of stolen property valued at over £10,000.

Burglaries of commercial premises totalled 15 with the last quarter accounting for almost half of these incidents, but again another fall when compared to last year. Shops and schools were targeted most frequently. Items taken included alcohol, cash, cabling, catering equipment, food stuffs and scrap metal. Other premises targeted included pubs, cafes and a workshop. In two of the offences nothing was stolen and on two occasions no entry was gained.

Theft from motor vehicle offences have fallen to 41 over the last year, with the last quarter accounting for seven offences. Earlier on in the reporting period theft of catalytic convertors was prevalent and accounted for 14 of the offences, with Toyotas, Mazdas and Hondas being the most targeted vehicles. This remains a national problem with other areas continuing to be targeted due to the value of the precious metals contained within the catalytic convertors. If you have a driveway, it may be useful to reverse park your car so that it is against the garage door or a wall. Also, if you see people supposedly 'working' on a neighbour's vehicle under suspicious circumstances or perhaps looking furtive, please contact us as we would always prefer to attend a legitimate event rather than miss an opportunity to apprehend criminals in the act. Works vans continue to be targeted where tools have been taken, eight of these have occurred in hotel car parks. Other items stolen included number plates, money, a telephone and a car badge. Please consider taking tools and electronic items out of vehicles overnight and park vehicles on driveways where possible and monitor them with CCTV.

There have been 20 reported theft of vehicle offences over the period. As reported in the last newsletter, thieves have targeted expensive BMWs and Mercedes branded vehicles, stealing them without using keys, which now accounts for 10 of the offences. Neighbouring forces have reported a similar pattern of offending and a joined up investigation is ongoing. I would like to encourage you to report suspicious persons carrying backpacks and paying attention to high value cars. The backpacks are likely to contain scanning equipment to intercept signals between the car and the car keys. I encourage owners of such cars to park their vehicles in a garage, use old-school physical deterrents such as steering wheel locks and to use signal-blocking pouches to store their keys. These pouches are lined with layers of metallic material that block a key's signal from reaching the outside world. Once you've locked your car, put the key in the bag and any would-be thieves will be leaving empty handed. Regarding the theft of vehicle offences, three were taken in circumstances where the victim and offender were known to each other. Three vehicles have been found and returned to their owners, two of which had been burnt out after parts had been stripped from them.

Anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased significantly over the last year across Fleet, from 477 reported incidents to 371 which is great news. We are aware of a number of areas which suffer from the most reports and we proactively target these locations. In fact our new PCSO, Sam Page, as part of her accreditation has been focussing on two areas you have let us know about. These have been on Elvetham Heath near the Key Centre, Church and Morrisons and Calthorpe Park. She has been working in partnership with the Council's Community Safety Team and other relevant stakeholders carrying out joint patrols, seeking views from local residents and holding awareness and educational events. Several of those involved have been identified and

(Annual General Meeting Police Report continued on Page 4)



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(Annual General Meeting Police Report continued from Page 3)

ASB warning letters have been sent home to their parents as the first step in a graduated response. We will continue to patrol these areas and other identified hotspots and have worked hard to effectively deal with them. As I have already said, we work closely with Safer North Hampshire to address quality of life issues. Since last year we have, in partnership, obtained several civil injunctions prohibiting individuals from a particular area, which includes their own homes, due to the impact they have had on their neighbours - powerful legislation which is used in the most serious of cases. If you are effected by any of these issues please do tell us as this directs where we patrol.

We continue to carry out speed enforcement throughout Fleet in partnership with the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) and Community Speed Watch to keep the roads and the drivers safe. A number of fixed penalty notices have been issued to drivers by my team, with over half of these tickets being issued to local residents. Quite recently an RPU officer caught a motorist driving in excess of double the speed limit, this person will be going straight to court and is likely to receive a driving ban. Please stick to the limit and obey all traffic signage.

Community Speedwatch is coordinated by Hampshire Constabulary in partnership with your local Council and other agencies. The volunteers use equipment that monitors the speed of passing traffic and then records the details if they are travelling in excess of the limit. These details are later added to a database. Vehicle checks are then undertaken by the Police and letters are sent to the registered keepers advising them of their speed and reminding them of why it is a community concern. Community Speedwatch is an educational scheme, not enforcement. It is considered as the first tier response to speeding issues. If it is shown that a problem persists with vehicles regularly travelling in excess of the posted speed limits, it can then be escalated to tier two which means that enforcement can be undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Currently we are seeking volunteers aged over 17 to join the Team to help deal with the local issues of speeding in the Community. If you are interested and could spare just a few hours a month, or you would like to find out more information, please send an email to: speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

It just leaves me to thank all members of Fleet & District NHW, all the coordinators and the committee for their continued hard work throughout the year and thus helping to make Fleet a safer place in which to live.

PS 2063 Rob Wallis

At the end of his Police Report, those attending the AGM thanked Rob Wallis for all his help and support to the NHW and the local community which had been greatly appreciated over the last six years, and they wished him every success in his future role with the Hampshire Police.

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

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Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch website: 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 December 2021**

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