



NEWSLETTER
Volume 27 Number 3
Summer 2021

FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

fleetnhw.co.uk

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

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Chairman's Report

This has been another fairly quiet quarter for our Neighbourhood Watch. A few signs have been attended to, and I am aware of others requiring attention. With lockdown hopefully ending I should be able to complete the task, especially for those brought to my attention by our members.

Thefts of catalytic converters have been brought to our attention and, as you will read in the Police Report, it has become a national issue due to the high price of the metals contained within them. So please park your car in a locked garage where possible, but if this isn't an option, then park it in a well-lit and well-populated area. Park close to fences, walls or a kerb with the exhaust being closest to the fence, wall or kerb to make the theft more difficult.

Our usual venue, All Saints School, is not available for our AGM this year. So with Covid-19 restrictions permitting, we have decided to use the Crookham War Memorial Hall. We will keep you informed if there are any changes but, meanwhile, we hope for a maximum attendance on Thursday 23 September.

With summer hopefully upon us, please don't forget those doors and windows. I know I comment on this topic in every newsletter, but too many of us still get caught.

Enjoy your summer and keep safe.

David Bunclark - Chairman

E-newsletters - please sign up now

Because of the ongoing restrictions associated with the Coronavirus pandemic and to safeguard our members, we have decided that, as with all recent editions, this Summer 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

FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

2021 Annual General Meeting

will be held at

The Crookham War Memorial Hall
Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD

on

Thursday 23 September at 7:00 pm

Apart from the normal agenda items, this year's AGM will feature a presentation by The Community Safety Team from Hart District Council. All members of the Fleet and District Neighbourhood Watch are invited to attend the AGM. Any member who wishes to put forward an item for inclusion in this year's agenda or would like to propose an amendment to the NHW Constitution is requested to contact the Chairman in writing by: **Friday 3 September 2021**.

I hope this report finds you all well and close to the release of what hopefully will be the final Covid lockdown, and I am looking forward to a bit more freedom over the summer as I am sure you are. I am pleased to report that we have been joined by two new police officers in Fleet who have commenced their three years degree programme, so they will not be with us full-time, but they are a welcome addition to the team. They are PC Doy and PC Halsall. We have also been joined by PCSO Page, so do please say hello when you see them out on patrol.

With regards to commission rates for the offence types I report on:

Dwelling Burglaries

There have only been two house burglaries recorded. This is the lowest I can remember for a long time, which is great news. Of the two burglaries, one was an attempt where no entry was gained. Two arrests have been made and an investigation is under way. The other burglary was to unoccupied premises where household items were stolen. I will put the reduction in commission rates down to your great work and excellent security, making your homes uninviting for would-be burglars.

Burglaries to Garages and Commercial Premises

There has only been one burglary to sheds, garages and out-buildings since the last report. This is another massive reduction which I am really happy with. On this occasion a pressure washer was stolen.

There have been three commercial burglaries in the area, one to a shop where expensive perfume products were stolen, one to a pub where alcohol was stolen and another to industrial premises where some cabling was taken.

Theft from Motor Vehicles

There have been eight thefts from motor vehicles. Only one involved a works van where tools were stolen, which is a fall in what has previously been reported. Three involved the theft of catalytic converters from cars. This is a reduction from the last reporting period, however catalytic converter thefts are a national issue due to the high price of the metals contained within them. Other items taken included number plates, electrical items, clothing and cash.

Theft of Motor Vehicles

Of concern is the increase in 'theft of a motor vehicles' offences. There have been 13 thefts from the Fleet area
(*Police & Crime 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.

over the reporting period. Eight of these offences occurred within two areas of Fleet where thieves targeted expensive BMWs and Mercedes branded vehicles, stealing them without using keys. Neighbouring forces have reported a similar pattern of offending and a joined-up investigation is taking place. Of the other offences, three of the vehicles were taken in circumstances where the victim and the offender were known to each other. The other two vehicles have both been found and returned to their owner, one of the vehicles was burnt out.

Scams

There has been a worrying increase in reported scams, both locally and nationally, where some victims have lost thousands of pounds to fraudsters who often impersonate an organisation. This could include the police, your bank, a utility company, a communication service provider or a government department such as HMRC. These scams often begin with a telephone call or text message that appears to be from a trusted organisation. Criminals use a tactic called 'spoofing' to make their call or text appear genuine by cloning either the number or sender's ID which the organisation normally uses.

HOW TO SPOT AN IMPERSONATION SCAM

- ◆ You receive a call, text, email or social media message out of the blue with an urgent request for your personal or financial information, or to make a payment.
- ◆ You are asked to act immediately, sometimes with the claim that 'your money is at risk' or 'your account will be blocked' if you do not act now!
- ◆ The caller asks you to transfer money to another account for 'safe-keeping' or to buy goods.
- ◆ The sender's email address is different to that of the genuine sender.

ALWAYS REMEMBER

- ◆ Your bank or the police will never ask you to transfer money to a safe account or contact you out of the blue to ask for your full PIN, password or passcode.
- ◆ Only give out your personal or financial information to services you have consented to and are expecting to be contacted by.
- ◆ Contact your bank or an organisation directly using a known email or telephone number.
- ◆ Never give anyone remote access to your computer following a cold call or unsolicited text.
- ◆ You can forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and suspected scam texts to your mobile network provider by forwarding them to 7726 (which, incidentally, spells 'SPAM' on a telephone keypad).

Anti-Social Behaviour

Summer time normally sees an increase in anti-social behaviour often associated with school-aged children. I am expecting this year, with less families able to take holidays abroad, that this may be higher than usual. Can I 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 to provide reassurance to the wider community. If you experience incidents of anti-social behaviour, see what you believe to be drug dealing or see suspicious vehicles, please report it via 101 or online to help us to focus our patrols in the right areas. Please obtain as much information as possible, including full descriptions of those involved, make, model, colour and registration numbers of any vehicles involved, and a description of what you have actually witnessed.

Hampshire Alerts

Can I make a request to anyone who has not done so already to please register with Hampshire Alerts as this is the way forward. We will put out crime alerts, recent news, information and advice to the whole community. Please visit: www.hampshirealert.co.uk to register. By using Hampshire Alert you will be one step ahead. You will be notified of relevant information, warnings and crime much more quickly, and you will not miss out on important updates regarding incidents occurring in your locality.

(Police & Crime Report continued on Page 4)



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(Police & Crime Report continued from Page 3)

My officers continue to ensure that the roads around Fleet remain as safe as possible by carrying out speed enforcement. Please adhere to the speed limits, as recently my officers have issued a number of fixed penalty notices and drivers have been given fines and points on their licences.

Please continue to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity, remember Fleet is a low crime area, not a no crime area.

Follow us on Twitter - @FleetPolice and on Facebook – @HartSouthPolice.

I wish you all an enjoyable and peaceful summer.

Sgt Rob Wallis

The Blue Lamp Trust

The Blue Lamp Trust is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and enhancing community safety throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. All their profits support the work of the Bobby Scheme, which is a free service providing practical home security and safety assistance to the elderly and vulnerable which helps them to feel safe in their own homes. Their charitable funds are raised through the Blue Lamp Trust's range of road safety courses and taxi driver assessments with DVSA-approved assessors.

The **Bobby Scheme** is the charitable arm of the Blue Lamp Trust and it provides free home security visits, long-life smoke alarms and advice to vulnerable people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, particularly the elderly and victims of burglary and domestic abuse. The Bobby Scheme has been operating all the way through the Coronavirus pandemic, sometimes at a reduced level, but now all the fitters are back. So they are happy to help anyone who is worried about home security and safety. The fitters have all been vaccinated, they have PPE and they will remain socially distanced wherever possible. As things are opening up please let your friends and neighbours know that the Bobby Scheme is around and available free of charge for anyone aged over 18 who is vulnerable, disabled or anyone over the age of 65. The fitters are also happy to do talks, either in person or via Zoom or Teams. Their working hours are: 08:00-16:00 Monday to Friday.

For more information please visit:

www.bluelamptrust.org.uk or telephone: 0300 777 0157 or write to: The Blue Lamp Trust, c/o Hampshire Police & Fire and Rescue Service HQ, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9SJ

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

Chairman: David Bunclark Tel: 01252621684 email: chairman.fleetnhw@gmail.com

Secretary: John Guerin Tel: 01252811165 email: secretary.fleetnhw@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kenneth Hammond Tel: 01252694310 email: treasurer.fleetnhw@gmail.com

Editor and Advertising: Alan MacGregor Tel: 01252626524 email: editor.fleetnhw@gmail.com

Webmaster: Brian Rose Tel: 01252871329 email: hinwa.alert@gmail.com

Community Representative: Jenny Radley email: jenny@jradley.com

Police: Sgt Rob Wallis Tel: 101 email: fleet.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

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: **30 September 2021**

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BChD (Leeds) Dip Surgical
Implantology (UCL)



Mrs Carol Champion
Hygienist
Dip. Dental Hygiene