



# FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

fleetnhw.co.uk

**NEWSLETTER**  
Volume 27 Number 2  
Spring 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](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

**Please don't delay, sign up now for your E-newsletter**

## **Chairman's Report**

Warmer weather, longer sunny days, we hope that these are all indications of a good Summer to come. Unfortunately, the Spring season also seems to create additional opportunities for scams.

Those offering a quicker Covid-19 vaccination for cash, emails hacked and then used to buy products or to persuade us to part with funds for someone we know. The message is simple: if the requests are unusual, especially if they appear to come from someone we know, give them a call to confirm their intent. If we don't check, the owner of the email may not be aware that there is a potential fraud occurring.

We know that some of our usual activities have been missing for several months, but with the Coronavirus hopefully in retreat, we should be able to eventually reinstate the quarterly newsletter and replace or refurbish our NHW signs.

Enjoy the Spring and Summer, please stay safe, lock up, and keep following the rules. They are there for the benefit of us all.

*David Bunclark - Chairman*

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

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

## **FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 2021 Annual General Meeting**

**Because of all the restrictions associated with the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 AGM was postponed indefinitely. If circumstances permit we hope to hold an AGM this year in September.**

**Details to be announced in the Summer edition of the newsletter**

## Police & Crime Report

Welcome to the Spring 2021 police report, and I hope the recent changes to the Covid regulations allow you some opportunity to meet friends and family outside the home. I would like to introduce you to the new addition to my team since the last newsletter: PCSO Lewis who has recently completed his training at Netley. You will see him on foot and on a cycle in Fleet. Please stop him and say hello. We will also soon be joined by PC Pragnell who is an experienced officer who has recently changed from a headquarters role. We have said goodbye to PC Oliver due to a change of roles. He had been covering the rural area of the district.

### Dwelling Burglaries

There have been six house burglaries since my last report, which is a reduction of almost 50% when compared to the last reporting period and is very good news. Three of these burglaries were committed with the point of entry to the rear of the premises. One of these resulted in jewellery and one resulted in cash being stolen. A house was entered and car keys were stolen from inside in order to steal a high powered car from the driveway. A pair of glasses was stolen from the shared lobby of another address and in two of the cases nothing was stolen. I am hoping this dramatic reduction in commission rate is down to you all following my advice. Whatever the reason, this really is a good result.

### Burglaries to Garages and Commercial Premises.

There have been ten break-ins to sheds, garages and other commercial premises. This is an increase of three offences when compared to the last reporting period. Five of these offences were to garages and bike stores where expensive cycles were targeted. In one case offenders removed roof tiles to gain access. Two offences targeted sheds, with one offence occurring in domestic circumstances and a lawn-mower was taken in another case. The other three offences were to commercial premises where food stuffs and scrap metal were stolen.

Can I bring to your attention the following advice regarding securing your garage, shed or bike store.

- ◆ Fit an alarm – most DIY stores stock battery-operated alarms suitable for this purpose.
- ◆ Always mark the property you keep in your garage or shed with your postcode – this will help with the identification if they are stolen and then recovered.
- ◆ Keep a list of property with photographs.
- ◆ Register your property on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).
- ◆ Make sure your garage is fitted with a good strong lock, padlock, door hinges or other security device such as a Garage Defender.

*(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.*

(Police & Crime Report continued from Page 2)

- ◆ Make sure items inside the garage or shed are secure – large items can be padlocked together or you could sink a post into the floor of the garage and padlock items to the post.
- ◆ Always remember to lock your garage or shed after use.
- ◆ Do not store large quantities of valuables in your garage or shed.
- ◆ Keep property and fencing in good repair and ensure that foliage and trees are kept trimmed.
- ◆ Check with your insurance company that you are covered for items stored in your garage.
- ◆ CCTV continues to come down in price and the quality of the images produced is improving all the time. Please consider installing a system yourself or having one professionally installed to protect your higher value items that are kept in your garage or shed.

### **Theft from Motor Vehicles**

There have been seven thefts from vehicles over the reporting period which is a massive drop from 19 which occurred in the last reporting period. As has been mentioned in previous reports, theft of catalytic convertors is common and accounts for four of the seven offences. The most common make of car targeted in this reporting period has been Mazda. This is a national problem due to the value of the precious metals contained within the catalytic convertors. If you have a driveway, it may be beneficial to reverse park your car so that it is against the garage door or a wall. Also, if you see anyone supposedly 'working' on a neighbour's vehicle in suspicious circumstances or perhaps looking furtive, please contact us. We would rather attend a legitimate event rather than miss an opportunity to apprehend criminals in the act. Chainsaws were stolen from another vehicle and a bag was stolen from a van in a hotel car park. A lorry was also targeted at Fleet Services which falls into our area.

### **Theft of Motor Vehicles**

There has been one reported theft of a vehicle over the reporting period. Also, a van containing gardening equipment was stolen from outside the owner's property.

### **Theft from Person and Robbery**

There have been four reports of robbery incidents. One involved the theft of a motor cycle where the suspects threatened violence. Officers from my team responded to this incident and, not only were they able to recover the stolen motor cycle and return it to the owner, but they located a van used in the incident which had also been stolen and recovered this too. Another involved the taking of a football between groups of youths and the other two matters are still under investigation, so I am unable to provide further details. Due to recent lockdown restrictions we have had no deception/distraction reports while shopping in the town centre.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

There has been an increase in reports relating to ASB. This is partly due to several reports of breaches of the restrictions introduced by the Government relating to social gatherings plus breaches of the ongoing Covid-19 regulations. ASB in general is on the increase which is in line with what we have been seeing in previous years. I would urge you to please continue to report ASB either via 101 or online as this assists us in targeting our patrols in the right locations. Unless you report it to us we are more likely to patrol areas from where we have received reports.

My officers continue to ensure that the roads around Fleet remain as safe as possible and they carry out speed enforcement. Please adhere to the speed limits as recently they 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 – Hart South Police.

Kind Regards - Sgt Rob Wallis



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*I am open for business and fully compliant with Covid-19 regulations*  
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## Notice Board

### Register your CCTV and Doorbell Cameras to help fight crime

Your CCTV security cameras and video doorbells can help deter and rapidly solve crime. If you register them on the N.I.C.E Investigate system it will streamline information exchange and help with sending the evidence needed to catch criminals faster.

- ◆ Your information is kept safe and secure - never made public.
- ◆ Only other police forces can see your security camera locations.
- ◆ This service is provided free of charge.
- ◆ Your participation always remains 100% voluntary.

Register by emailing: [NICEDEMSSUPPORT@hampshire.pnn.police.police.uk](mailto:NICEDEMSSUPPORT@hampshire.pnn.police.police.uk)

For more information please visit: <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/da/364698>

### Ofcom Warning: Text Scam

Your Royal Mail parcel is awaiting delivery. Please confirm the settlement of 1.99 (GBP) on the following link: <https://royal-mail-deliverycharge.com>

There have been reports to Ofcom of people receiving text messages claiming to be from the Royal Mail, asking for payment to deliver a parcel.

**This is a scam.** If you receive a text which is similar to the one shown here, **do not tap on the link.** Instead, forward the text to **7726** to report it to your provider.

**Hampshire Cyber Watch** The Cyber Champions are Neighbourhood Watch volunteers who have been trained by the Hampshire Police Cyber Crime Unit. They can provide free help and advice if, for example, you are worried about one of the following:

- ◆ You've spotted a potential scam email or phone call but are not sure what to do next.
- ◆ You think you have been hacked.
- ◆ Someone is asking you to pay a ransom.
- ◆ You have received malicious messages.
- ◆ You think you may be targeted by fraud and scams.
- ◆ You have lost information that could affect your privacy.

For free help or advice, please contact one of the Cyber Champions at: <https://hampshirecyberwatch.org> and click the red 'Request Support' box. If you have a general enquiry or would like to ask for a talk by one of the Cyber Champions to your group, please click the blue 'Contact Us' box.

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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**Community Representative: Jenny Radley** email: [jenny@jradley.com](mailto:jenny@jradley.com)

**Police: Sgt Rob Wallis** Tel: 101 email: [fleet.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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: **30 June 2021**

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