



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 Number 2
Spring 2018

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.

Chairman's Report

Hopefully the worst of the winter is now behind us and I trust that no-one suffered unduly with the snow. Since most of our NHW participants are of a certain vintage, broken bones do not heal as well with advancing years.

The only advantage of snow or any very bad weather is that in general the criminals don't like it either, so hopefully the crime rate statistics will be a little lower.

I have been advised of another scam recently. A telephone call, which suggests it is from a magistrate's court, indicates that we are about to receive a court order for some misdemeanour unless we cough up money to prevent the bailiffs calling. My answer to such calls is simple: put the phone down and ignore it. You will only ever receive such a notification in a sealed envelope marked private and confidential, never via a telephone call.

Let's look forward to a crime-free spring, with hopefully a warm summer to follow. Please lock up your property and don't give the villains a chance.

David Bunclark - Chairman

FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at

**All Saints School Church of England Junior School
Lea Wood Road, Fleet GU51 5AJ**

on

Thursday 27 September 2018 at 7.30 pm

Apart from the normal agenda items, this year's AGM will feature a presentation by Communicare (a voluntary organisation which transports patients to hospital, doctors and dental appointments). 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 to propose an amendment to the NHW Constitution is requested to contact the Chairman in writing by: **Friday 31 August 2018**.

Senior Coordinator Wanted

Our sincere thanks to those who have recently volunteered to become NHW senior coordinators and coordinators. We are now short of a senior coordinator to cover Kukri Close and Wakeford Copse which are part of the new Oaklands development. It would involve delivering about 30 newsletters four times a year. If you are interested in volunteering for this post or if you would like to assist the NHW in some other way please contact our Secretary (his details are on page 4 of this newsletter).

Police & Crime Report

Welcome to the Spring 2018 police report - I hope the weather has turned for the better and that we will now be in for a warmer period after what has seemed to be a long cold winter, especially after the recent snow.

There have been nine house burglaries since my last report, four of which involved jewellery being taken. I fully understand that some jewellery has sentimental value and that it could never be replaced. So please consider hiding your jewellery around the home or installing a safe securely fixed to the fabric of the building, rather than leaving it on display on the dressing table. Ensure it is suitably insured with any distinguishing marks recorded and that it is photographed. Three of the burglaries occurred in multi-occupancy premises and the others were committed through a variety of means; for example, entry gained by removing keys, that had been left on the inside lock, via the cat flap; forcing patio doors, side doors and smashing windows. Other property taken was a designer handbag, a mobile phone, a TV and a passport.

There have been 16 break-ins to sheds, garages and other commercial premises which is similar to the number during the last reporting period. Broken down, these equate to five burglaries to business premises, three of which occurred on the same night very close to each other. Three involved burglaries at school premises where mobile phones were taken, and two occurred at pubs. The remaining six were to sheds and garages where tools and a bike were targeted.

There have been seven thefts from vehicles over the reporting period. Six have been thefts of work tools from vans, with five of the thefts occurring on the same night. The other crime was a theft of number plates from a car.

There has been one reported theft of a motor vehicle over the period. It was taken in domestic circumstances.

Overall crime has fallen across the area, but I have noticed an increase in incidents reported involving door to door sellers. They are often referred to as Nottingham Knockers and they usually involve young men who go door to door selling household products. They are dropped off in the morning in a particular location by a large van and are then transported around that area throughout the day until approximately 2100hrs. They will offer to show you an ID which will likely be 'Hawkers Work Creation' and they will say that they have recently been released from prison. This company does not exist and their ID is simply a laminated piece of card with their picture on it. They will be carrying a large holdall style bag containing various household items at high prices and they will try and hard sell these items to make more money. They will also tell you how they are trying to make a better life. When house-holders decline to purchase the products, they have been subjected to verbal abuse from the sellers.

(Police & Crime Report continued on Page 4)

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Community Website www.fleethants.com This is a comprehensive local information website which is dedicated to serving people living in or visiting Fleet. Its mission is to provide information about the community and services within Fleet, Church Crookham, Crookham Village and the immediate surrounding countryside in a user-friendly and fun way.

Email Security A new survey suggests that half of young people aged 18-25 use the same password for multiple online services, making it easy for criminals to hijack accounts. The survey from Cyber Aware, the government's online safety campaign, is aimed at getting young people to understand the importance of using different passwords for different accounts, not least email. This advice is a wake-up call for everyone, not just the young. Here's why: if you use the same combination of email address and password for your email account as you do for other services and it is compromised by either a data breach or inadvertently revealing it, it makes it fast and easy for your email to be hacked too. The danger is two-fold:

1. Anyone controlling your email account can impersonate you to commit fraud, identity theft, or both.
2. Any sensitive data you send via email can be intercepted.

Cyber Aware recommends that you use a strong and separate password for email accounts, and that names of family members, pets, sports teams, etc should not be used when choosing passwords. This is because these details can be deduced from social media profiles and posts, a favourite source of information for criminals. It also recommends that, if available, users should take advantage of 2-factor authentication for additional security, normally by a message or call to the user's mobile device.

Help Stop Fraud To support the 'Take Five to Stop Fraud Week' a special Neighbourhood Alert was issued to hundreds of thousands of Alert users to share the simple advice on offer. Thanks to all who responded. The advice from Take Five is really simple but it can stop you becoming a victim of fraud:

1. A genuine bank or organisation will never contact you to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. Only give out your personal or financial details to use a service that you have given your consent to, that you trust and that you are expecting to be contacted by.
2. Do not be tricked into giving a fraudster access to your personal or your financial details, and never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.
3. Always question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.

To read more about Take Five and to access their resources go to: <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk>



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(Police & Crime Report continued from Page 2)

There has been an increase in the number of calls from you notifying us of the presence of these sellers, and I encourage you to continue to report these incidents. I also ask that you take note of the following advice:

- Always use the door chain when answering the door, if you are not sure do not open the door.
- Always check the credentials of unknown callers. Do not telephone the number on the ID card shown, use a telephone book or a bill to check the number.
- Never employ cold-calling doorstep traders or engage with cold-callers on the telephone.
- Do not keep substantial sums of money in the home.
- Always keep front and back doors locked.
- **LOCK, STOP, CHAIN and CHECK** - if unsure do not open the door.
- Consider joining or setting up a No Cold-Calling Zone or a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Report any suspicious callers or activity to the police immediately.
- Keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, friends and family.
- Please call 101 to advise us of any unexpected callers - this gives the Police a better chance to build a picture of where the potential criminals are operating.
- Please remember that if the cold-caller sales are unsuccessful, the sellers are unlikely to return in future.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you all that now that the warmer and lighter evenings have arrived and more of us will be venturing outside to enjoy our gardens, it is likely that more of your garden furniture and equipment will be left outside. Please be mindful of the following to protect your property in the garden:

- Is your garden perimeter as secure as it can be?
- Is the side gate locked and high enough to prevent anyone climbing over it?
- Have you left anything by the gate which makes it easier for someone to climb over it, such as a wheelie bin?
- Have you left tools in the garden which could be used by a burglar to break into your house, garage or shed?

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

Kind Regards
Sgt Rob Wallis

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: 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 June 2018**

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