

# Neighbourhood News

Issue No 02/08  
September 2010

Dorset Police



## Gillingham Safer Neighbourhood Teams Serving

Gillingham Town, Bourton, Silton, Milton On Stour, Bowridge, Sandley, Langham, Buckhorn Weston, Ecccliffe, Hartmoor, Kington Magna, Lower and Higher Nyland, West Stour, East Stour, Hunger Hill, Fifehead Magdalen, Stour Provost, Woodville, Stour Row, Todber, Margaret Marsh, East Orchard, West Orchard.

### Welcome

Welcome to the September edition of Neighbourhood News, firstly I must apologise for the absence of the August edition, unfortunately it was one of those months and I ran out of time before the deadline, I hope you weren't too disappointed.

### News

It has been fairly uneventful since the last edition, certainly as far as crime is concerned; locally there has been nothing of major significance to report, in fact for a school summer holiday period it has been remarkably quiet. Across the County thefts of fuel and scrap metal continue to be a problem, isolated rural properties are receiving the regular unwanted visits from ne'er-do-wells, hobbledehoyes and guttersnipes; often the same types posing as jobbing gardeners preying on the elderly, charging outrageous sums of money for little or no work, please report these individuals to us at every opportunity.

There has been a series of burglaries where Co-Op retail premises have been targeted, with large hauls of cigarettes and cash being stolen. These have mainly occurred in the East of the County close to the Hampshire border, but recently they have spread closer to our area, our local Co-Op stores have been made aware.

Having said that it's been fairly uneventful, you wouldn't think so looking at some of the recent press relating to Gillingham! Sensationalist headlines are not necessarily accurate or the full story. Yes, we are aware of some issues relating to certain areas of the town, however, it is important to keep things in perspective, we are working very closely with our partners to try and resolve a number of local issues, and we are confident that these issues can be addressed through partnership working. Despite some negative press, Gillingham continues to be a very safe place to live and work.

The North Dorset Police Blue Light Day held on 24<sup>th</sup> July seems to have been a great success, well over 500 visitors attended the event, the weather was kind and feedback from our visitors has been very positive.

The Sheduction shed has been out and about on a regular basis; thanks to Home watch volunteers it was possible to attend the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show as well as several other local fetes and events, the shed is proving to be a great success.



Partners And Communities Together

### **Your Local Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

#### **Gillingham Town SNT**

[gillinghamtownsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gillinghamtownsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

**Community Beat Officer**

PC Chris Nutt 1806

**Police Community Support Officer**

PCSO Nicky Fear 5380

01202 229131 / 07825521860

#### **Gillingham Rural SNT**

[gillinghamruralsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gillinghamruralsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

**Community Beat Officer**

PC Maureen Hayward 132

**Police Community Support Officer**

PCSO Chris Mullens 6644

01202 229131 / 07825521870

#### **SNT Supervisor**

Sgt Ken Morgan

01202 229622

Dorset Police Non Emergency

01202 22 22 22

[www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk)

**Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111**

### **Crime Prevention 'Message of the Month'**

**What's happening in YOUR  
neighbourhood? Join a  
watch scheme, don't ignore  
it, report it!**



## Noisy Neighbours

You would be amazed at how many calls Dorset Police receive from people complaining about noise, however, in general noise pollution is not a police matter and we do not have specific powers to deal with noise nuisance. Complaints should be made to the local district council; here is some advice if noise is a problem for you:

It's best to try and resolve the problem early on by talking to whoever is responsible for the noise. It's also important to establish the facts - make a record of where the noise is coming from, at what time, and the reasons for it.

Contact your local council (usually the environmental health department deals with noise issues). They will give you practical advice and may give you a noise record sheet to note the problems.

The assessment of noise nuisance is based on whether it is 'reasonable', bearing in mind the locality, how often noise occurs and how many people are affected.

If the local council thinks the noise is a statutory nuisance, they will serve an abatement notice on the neighbour. An abatement notice will set out what is required of your neighbour. For instance, if the issue is loud music, they may be asked to stop the noise outright, or be asked to just play music between set times.

In some cases, the council may not need to prove a statutory nuisance where the premises hold a public entertainment licence. Action can be taken against premises that operate outside of their licensing agreement.

### Complaining about dogs that bark

Constant barking, whining or howling can be disturbing and annoying for neighbours.

You can make a complaint to your local council about a dog that is disturbing you, or causing a nuisance, because of its barking, just like any other noise complaint, contact your local council for details.

<http://www.north-dorset.gov.uk/index.htm>

### Mediation services

Before registering a formal complaint it is a good idea to try talking to your neighbour about the problem. If you find this intimidating or would like some support, various community mediation services are available and can be found in the phone book or follow this link.

<http://www.axng87.dsl.pipex.com/index.htm>

## Cutbacks

Financial cutbacks are affecting us all, particularly in the public sector, Dorset Police is no exception. In order to achieve best value for the tax payer and for Dorset Police to continue providing a high level of service it is necessary to make as many savings as possible, therefore, unfortunately I am no longer able to provide colour printed hard copies of Neighbourhood News, I have yet to make a decision with regard to providing black and white copies (based on cost), as a result I am seeking to enlarge the electronic circulation and would ask that you pass it on via e-mail to any local contacts not already receiving it.

**PREPARED FOR YOU BY PC 1806 CHRIS NUTT**  
Until Next Month, "eyes and ears open".



If you have any issues that you want brought to the attention of the PACT panel please contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team, this includes issues from the more rural areas, the PACT panel represents the whole Gillingham area.

For more about PACT please visit the Dorset Police website.

[www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk)

### **Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team would like to meet you!**

**Do you have any good ideas that you want share with us? Would you like us to get involved in anything in your community? Do you think you could do anything for us? Let us know, we'd love to hear from you.**

### DIARY DATES

Gillingham Town SNT

Gillingham Library Chantry Fields. First Tuesday of each month 2pm – 3pm.

Orchard Park garden centre. Second Wednesday of each month 11am – 12pm.

Peacemarch Surgery. Third Thursday of each month 10am – 11am.

The Sheducation shed will be available at various local venues in the next few weeks, look out for it at Orchard Park, Focus DIY, and Scats.

Gillingham Rural SNT

Maureen is currently on leave and I don't have her dates for September, however she will be available at the usual venues with the mobile library in the Stours, at the usual lunch dates for Silton and Bourton and Stour Provost parish council meeting.

