



Autumn/Winter 2025 Issue 3



Merley Neighbourhood Watch

~ Encouraging Safety in our Community ~

Welcome to your new look MNW Newsletter

Poole's oldest tree in Fenner's Field



FROM YOUR CHAIR

Dear Member,

Where did the summer go? I am sat here looking out of my window on a windy autumnal day and reflecting what has happened in Merley since the AGM in May. What a hot dry summer we had. And how wet has it been recently! I do hope that you managed to make the most of the lovely warm dry days, and evenings, that we had.

Those of you who visit the shops at the precinct will have noticed that we have a new Neighbourhood watch notice board now. Do have a look at it from time to time for news and information. We are also planning to have a notice board at the community centre which should reach a different audience.

Whilst on the subject of the community centre, Merley Neighbourhood Watch has been fostering closer links with the Community Association and are grateful for their support. We have been talking about having a MNW website for some time now and are pleased to have been invited to add our webpage to the community centre website. The web address is nice and straightforward, and you should see our page there soon. <https://merleycc.co.uk/>

The Chairs messages wouldn't be complete without our normal plea for volunteers to help continue our Watch. We made it clear at our AGM that we can't continue without more volunteers. We were told that the Watch is very much appreciated in Merley, but we do need your help. We need committee members, coordinators and droppers. Please do get in touch if you can spare a few hours a month to get involved.

Putting on one of my other hats, Merley Win on Waste collection sessions continue to happen on the first Saturday of every month at the Lantern Church from 10:15 until 11:30. We have many regulars who bring us their 'difficult to recycle items', and every month we get someone new joining in. One of the good causes that we support (hat change again) is the Merley Community Defibrillator Project. So far Win on Waste has raised over £1,000 to help keep this vital equipment running. Please continue to collect and donate scrap wire and cables (with plugs etc removed).

Thanks for your support.

Cllr Richard Burton and your MNW Committee

App download scams – Watchout it even happened to me!

Downloading apps to your smartphone makes so many things easier, however there are people out there that try to trick us.

I was contacted by a resident recently who was complaining that they had to pay for the RingGo parking app when they downloaded it. Most apps are free to download, and I know that the RingGo app certainly is. The resident had been the victim of an app download scam.

These scams happen in two main ways. The first is that the scammers put a “helpful” barcode on the parking machine or notice board. If you scan that barcode it takes you to their website that looks correct but is fake. The second way is if you use a search engine, like Google. You could be taken to a website link that look identical to the app website that you want, but it is a front for the scammers. You will get the app that you want but by then will have given the scammers your card details and they will draw a small payment. They will then sign you up for unwanted monthly subscriptions or use the information to draw you into sharing more of your details thus increase your vulnerability to them. These are known as ‘Hijacked’ apps or websites.

This happened to me earlier in the year when signing up for a free music app trial. Luckily I suspected that there was something wrong and contacted my bank and they sorted it out for me.

To avoid this happening to you - it is best to only use the “Play Store” to get apps if you have an android phone, or the “App Store” if you have an apple phone.

I hope that you stay safe online.
Richard

THIS NEWSLETTER
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Update from MNW AGM on 14th May

The meeting wanted MNW to continue but agreed the need to look at new ways of working and communication. Councillor Richard Burton was elected as meeting Chair. Welcome to John Keenan to the Committee and the role of Treasurer. Angela Mullens, Brian Dickinson, Heather Craven and Sue Weall were re-elected. Vacancies still exist for more members and help to get the work done. Exploring ways of working in partnership with Merley Community Association (MCA) and hosting MNW information on their new website. Thanks to the dedicated team of MNW Co-ordinators distributing newsletters and linking to their areas. Carole Spedding, former Chair, has now retired as a Dropper & Co-ordinator, Thanks for her many years of service to MNW.

How to Contact the Committee and view information

Email : merleynw@gmail.com

Phone: **07920 858609** New number for MNW Committee

Letter : Letterbox at Merley Community Centre, Harrier Drive BH21 1XE

Door near Defib (Address to 'Merley Neighbourhood Watch')

Noticeboards: Merley Shopping Precinct and Merley Community Centre

Website : Coming soon, MNW Information and Newsletter on MCA new website <https://merleycc.co.uk>

CAN YOU HELP US BY VOLUNTEERING

Seeking to add wider skills to the existing committee, as co-opted posts in order to

- Redesign and compile new look newsletter including photographs
- Streamline distribution of newsletter to existing 1400 members
- Increase use of What's App to transmit community safety information and crime alerts
- Maintain contact with residents who want to retain paper methods of Receiving information
- Review Constitution by January 2026 to approve at May AGM

OzJob Handyman Services
Established 2013

Painting - internal & external
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General Property Maintenance
No job is too small to be considered!
Call Jackie & Esref Ozdemir
01202 889358 or 07968 992753
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ADVERTISING

Can we offer you advertising as shown? We would welcome new advertisers to the MNW Newsletter. Our terms are reasonable and although we don't depend on advertising for our revenues, every little helps. So, if you are interested in advertising in our next issue, please contact us via our Committee at merleynw@gmail.com.

Advertising rates for 2026 to be set at next Committee meeting.

FLU and COVID Vaccinations

The Harvey Practice is offering both Flu and Covid Vaccinations for those patients who are eligible. The vaccines will be given together, and we have clinics running at both The Lantern in Merley and The Annexe, St John's Church in Broadstone. We will also be holding clinics during lunch times in the Practice. Nurses will attend patients who are housebound.

Eligible patients will be contacted and invited to book.

Defibrillator Update

Seeking two volunteers to help with monthly checking of Defibrillators and/or help with organising training. Contact sue@weall.co.uk for more information.

Thank you for scrap wires & cables collected by WoW to contribute to costs.

MERLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Distributed to 1400 households by our co-ordinators. More help required to deliver, please contact us if interested in serving your local area.

A number of roads now no longer have Co-ordinators so distribution has stopped or will do after this issue. Email version of the newsletter is no longer available. October 2025 Newsletter will be print only.

Any community articles for consideration please contact MNW, merleynw@gmail.com or phone/letter.

Thanks to Debi Donovan from MCA Committee for compiling our Merley Events Page. Contact her on mca.facilities@hotmail.com with your event happening in Merley.

Next Newsletter due to be distributed February 2026

Next deadline for information Friday 16th January 2026

Three issues a year planned for February, June, and October

Information for Co-ordinators

Make a note of **07920 858609** which is now a new MNW Committee phone for messages and calls, phone shared by Committee.

Please deliver the October newsletter to **all members** on your current list (combine email and paper). **An email version will be no longer be an option.** Exploring the use of What's App as a means of communication to Co-ordinators and members. **See request for Trial Volunteers.**

Calling community volunteers for Trial Use of What's App to be considered to replace email newsletter

Seeking 10 volunteers to trial using What's App as an alternative to email to share our Newsletter. Message our MNW Phone 07920 858609 with 'TRIAL WA' and 'Your Name' if interested by 30th October

CRIME STATISTICS FOR POOLE NORTH

Poole North/Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

492 crimes reported in Poole North (July 2025).

166 ASB
181 Violence & sexual offences
34 Shoplifting
111 Other theft

Out of this total only 9 were Merley.

6 Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
3 Violence & sexual offences

Priorities for Poole North NPT are to reduce

Retail Crime

Anti-social behaviour

The team can only review data if reports are made by people in our communities. Encourage people to report on www.dorset.police.uk or call 101 (If crime in progress call 999).

NB: As reported to Councillor Richard Burton

Over the past 31 days there has been no reported antisocial behaviour, vehicle thefts or shop lifting. There has been one theft from a garage. (meeting with the Poole North inspector on 26th September).

Sign up to Dorset Alert www.dorsetalert.uk messaging system.

Role of PCSO and value of Neighbourhood Watch

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Pete Raymond came to speak at MNW AGM in May. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to highlight the success of Neighbourhood Watches and the massive changes which have taken place over the last 20 years particularly in the use of technology and now AI. Police need information from the public to tackle problems and gave the success of reducing anti-social behaviour at Poole bus station as an example. He stressed that incidents needed reporting to identify hot spots because that is how resources are allocated. The police welcomed the opportunity to work with local communities and had identified 18 hotspots across the whole area. PCSO Raymond answered a number of questions relating to local problems including shoplifting at NISA and stressed the need to report any incidents. He was impressed at the level of support for MNW at the meeting. The Chair thanked him on behalf of the AGM.

The Merley Events Page

Merley Community Centre activities

One-off events at Merley Community Centre

Calling All Crafters – “Craft and Have a Go Day”

Saturday 18th October - 10.00 - 2.00pm at Merley Community Centre.
FREE entry various craft activities just pay for materials as well as craft sellers and refreshments. Contact Jenny mob. 07484 748793 for more information.

Saturday 6th December – Merley Christmas Community Fair 10am-2pm.
FREE entry. (See advertisement).

New Classes at Merley Community Centre

Saturday mornings - Yoga Class at Merley Community Centre

9.30-10.45am - Hatha Yoga - ideal for complete beginners to intermediate level.
11am to 12 noon - Pregnancy and Post-Natal Yoga - specially adapted yoga to provide a safe and inclusive class for pregnant women and new mums.
For more information call 07477570368 or go to www.jntherapies.com/yoga

Fabulingo - Language Learning with Emma

Little Linguists - French classes for toddlers and preschoolers
Interactive, multisensory sessions involving singing, games, props and crafts (and hot drinks for the adults!). The perfect classes to develop your little one's cognitive and linguistic abilities.

Times: Fridays (term time) Tots (18m-2.5y) 9:45-10:30am & Preschoolers (2.5y-4y) 10:45-11:30am. £6.50/session

Contact Emma: 07756 726961 Email: fabulingo@outlook.com

Link for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CRTwJ6VEJ/>

Ballroom Dances

Social Dance – 7pm-9pm second Friday of every month £6

Tea Dance – 3pm-5.30pm last Sunday of every month £6 to include tea, coffee and cake

Email: jamesleyland2000@hotmail.co.uk or mob. 07959182824

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The Merley Events Page (continued)

Regular Events at Merley Community Centre

Please see the updated webpage <https://merleycc.co.uk/> for more details.

Canford School

Canford School has a wide range of facilities and events open to the wider community. Please see the website www.canford.com/open-to-the-public to find out more about upcoming events in their theatre and music school, classes at the sports centre, swimming lessons, golf, real tennis and squash memberships.

Canford Magna Parish Church

Contact details for the following events:

Tel. 01202 882270

admin@canfordparish.org

Office Hours: 10am-12pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays

- Harvest Festival - Sunday 5th October at 10.30am
- Hope Explored Course – Tuesday 28th October, 4th November and 11th November at 7pm. Please book in via the website www.canfordparish.org
- All Souls' Memorial Service – Sunday 2nd November at 3pm
- Remembrance Sunday Service – Sunday 9th November at 10.30am
- **Wild Church Rectory Garden** – Saturday 13th December 9am
Please book via the church website www.canfordparish.org

The Lantern Church

Contact details for the following groups:

Tel. 01202 887733

www.thelanternchurch.org

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm

SATURDADS – 1st Saturday of every month, 10am-11:30am <https://thelanternchurch.churchsuite.com/events/rafuzgqr>

Mixed Blessings – Tuesdays 10:30am-12pm

A lively club for people in the church and the community who are free to meet on a Tuesday morning. There is always time for making friends and getting to know one another better, and planned activities, including games, talks, recitals, short Bible spots, celebrations and outings.

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The Merley Events Page (continued)

- **Alpha Course** – starting Tuesday 30th September - 7-9pm at The Lantern
- <https://thelanternchurch.churchsuite.com/events/vkeuxakc>
- **The Hiding Place** - Come and join us for Six Sessions based on the real life story of Corrie Ten Boom
- <https://thelanternchurch.churchsuite.com/events/usce4wg9>
Starts on Thursday 16 October, 2:30-4pm.

Christmas at Canford Magna Parish Church

- Christingle Service - Saturday 20th December 4pm
- Carol Service - Sunday 21st December 6.30pm
- Nativity Service - Wednesday 24th December 4pm
- Midnight Service - Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm
- Christmas All Age Service - Thursday 25th December 10am



HELPFUL INFORMATION

We try to provide useful information in this Newsletter. If you experience difficulties in some way and it is relevant to others in our Community, do tell us by sending an email to merleynw@gmail.com. Describing the problem and what you have done to try to resolve it and we will endeavour to offer some form of solution, if we can.

MNW DISCLAIMER

The Editor and MNW do not recommend or endorse any trader advertising in this Newsletter or by reference elsewhere. It is essential Members ensure any Trader being considered is suitable for their particular needs. We ask Members who do use Traders, to provide good/bad feedback to assist other Members. Remember, personal recommendation is always best, so ask friends and neighbours first.

Remember as well, that adverts and their content are paid for by the person placing the advert. MNW reserves the right to withdraw advertising copy without notice. Articles and views or opinions expressed in Newsletters should not be relied upon without first taking appropriate advice from a reliable source.

DORSET ALERT

Dorset Alert is a two way community messaging system operated by Dorset Police to keep residents informed about local crime, incidents and public safety matters. To sign up www.dorsetalert.co.uk.

REMAIN VIGILANT

Please remain vigilant and report anything suspicious or anyone acting suspiciously, to Dorset Police on **101** or **www.dorset.police.uk** or if a crime is in progress, on **999**.

If you witness or are subject to anti-social behaviour, please report it to Dorset Police at the time on **www.dorset.police.uk** or ring **101** so they can deal with the behaviour expeditiously.

STOP PRESS:

From 3 October 2025 there will no longer be a Front Counter at Poole Police station. Changes follow a review, which recognised that the public prefer to contact Dorset Police online. New Mobile Police Stations are visiting communities and a schedule of Community Contact Points move around the area.

Find out more details and specific dates on Dorset Police website. Sign up for Dorset Alert to also receive updates.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Dorset Police Website: <https://www.dorset.police.uk>

The BCP Crisis Advice Scheme helpline 01202 096622 or for further information: BCP Crisis Advice scheme (bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Following a crime contact: www.victimsupport.org.uk or call 0300 3030163

[To see if you qualify for a Dorset & Wilts Fire & Rescue Service free Safe & Well visit \(smoke detectors, escape planning, electrical appliances & cables\):](#)
www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/ [or call 0800 038 2323](#)

National Stalking Helpline: 0808 8020300

www.citizensadvisedorset.org.uk or phone 08001448848

For anyone in crisis any-time, anywhere **text Shout** to 85258

For online safety go to: www.getsafeonline.org

If you wish to report:

- * a fraud or require details of frauds visit: www.actionfraud.police.uk
- * a suspicious e-mail go to: report@phishing.gov.uk
- * a suspicious text message (sms) forward it to **7726** (free of charge)
- * illegal online content: www.iwf.org.uk/report/
- * a scam :Stop Scams UK call - 159 hotline pilot and connect directly to your bank, or: <https://stopscamsuk.org.uk/159>

