



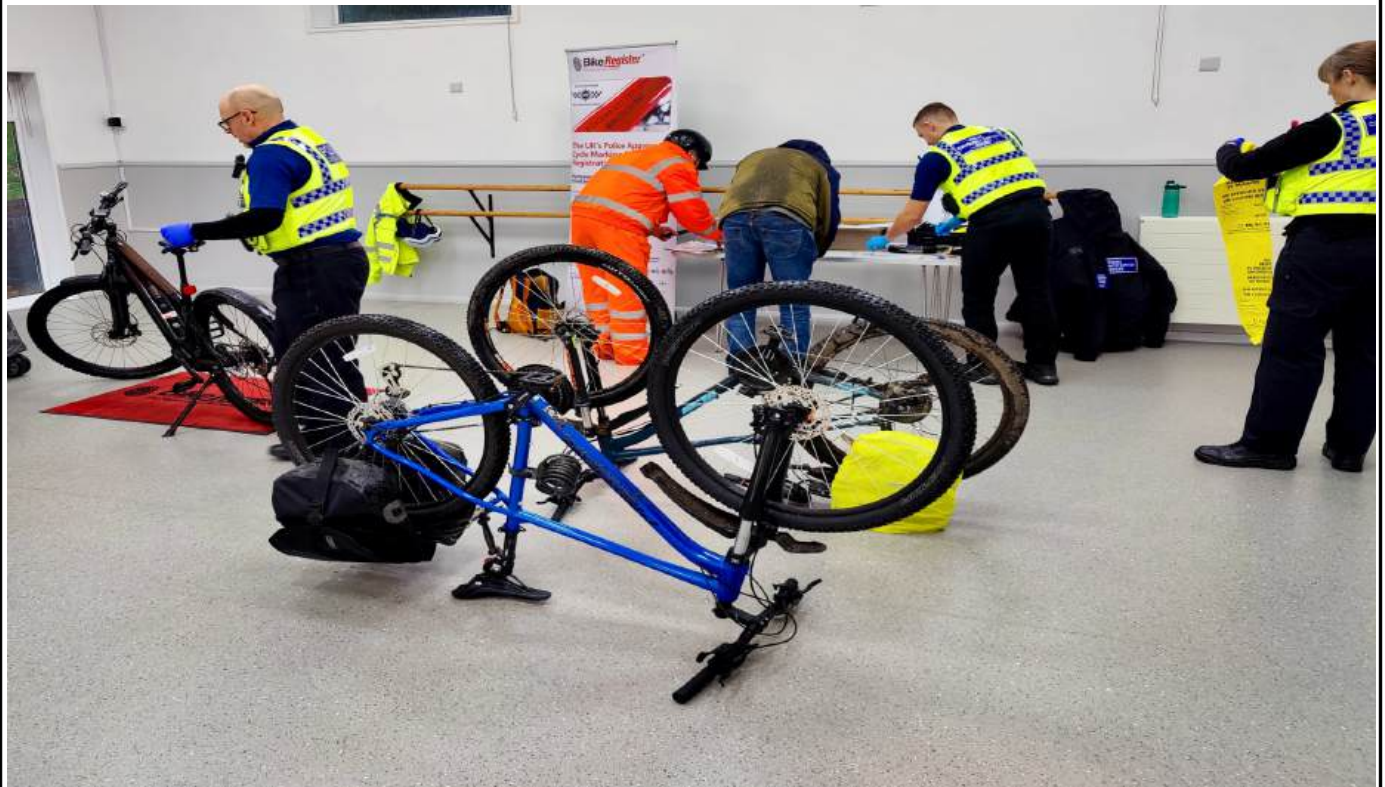
Spring 2026 Issue 1



Merley Neighbourhood Watch

~ Encouraging Safety in our Community ~

Bike marking in the Community Centre



This edition “ **At A Glance**”:

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Message from your Chair

Dear member,

What a wet winter it has been! Getting out and doing things when it is this cold and wet is always more difficult and it is during the cold wet winters that it is especially important that we are looking out for others in our community. This is why the Neighbourhood Watch has been so important over the years.

When I agreed to be the Chair at last years AGM we had a long discussion **about the future of The Watch** and I made it clear **that I would only Chair for a year**. The feeling in the room was that we all wanted it to continue but people were rather reticent to step forward to become the Chair or members of the committee. I have had a couple of people interested but not enough and I know that some **longstanding committee members are wanting to step down at the next AGM**. I will therefore have to follow the constitution and **start the proceedings to close down The Merley Neighbourhood Watch**.

The first stage is to write to the committee and call a special meeting to discuss the motion to **close Merley Neighbourhood Watch**. We must vote on that, and the outcome is added to the agenda of the next AGM which will be on **Wednesday the 24th of June at 7:30pm** in Merley Community Centre. If the decision of the committee is to recommend closure, there will then be a vote of all the members present. If passed we will need to make arrangements to pay all outstanding bills and what happens to the remaining funds, street signs etc.

This is now the last chance. The point of no return.

The constitution does not allow for nominations on the night of the AGM so if there are members out there who could step forward **to join the committee** we need to know in advance. **Any nominations for the committee must be received fourteen days before the AGM, i.e. by Wednesday the 10th of June**. Please reach out to the committee first to discuss what it involves.

I am still hoping that this is not the last newsletter and that it will not be the last AGM. Merley is a great place to live. According to Garrington Property Finders, **Merley is the ninth best place to live in England and Wales**. I like to think that our Neighbourhood Watch plays a part in achieving that fantastic score.

Thanks for your support.

Cllr Richard Burton and your MNW Committee

Bike marking event a great success.

At the end of November, Merley Neighbourhood Watch jointly hosted a bike marking event run by Dorset Police. This event was very timely as there have been a few incidents of bikes being stolen in Merley and surrounding areas, mainly from back gardens and garages or sheds. Even though the day was wet and cold we had a queue of customers at the community centre when we opened at ten o'clock, and a constant stream coming through the door all morning. Some people cycled quite a distance to get here.

The police also offered advice on 'keeping your bike safe'. They had some substantial "U" locks for sale and recommended that you use them both when out and at home, fastening your bike to something secure every time it's not being used. The recommendation is to spend 10% of the price of the bike on a lock. With e-bike prices ranging from £1,000 to over £5,000 pounds that is up to £500 on a lock! But it doesn't matter how much you spend if you don't use it! The way that most bikes are stolen is they are taken when left without a lock for a short period of time, like in the back garden or an unlocked shed, or the thief uses a rechargeable electric angle grinder. The bike marking doesn't stop bikes being stolen but it does mean that they are much more likely to be found and returned if stolen. That reminds me. I must send in my registration form!

Have you visited the Merley 'Win on Waste' yet?

In the last edition I mentioned Merley 'Win on Waste' in the Chair's introduction and a few people have asked me what it is all about, so here is a little more information. Merley Win on Waste has been running for nearly eight years now and we still get new people along every month.

Win on Waste is a local charity. Its' aim is to reduce waste going in our bins by redirecting specific items to a variety of places where they are recycled, upcycled or reused whilst supporting a wide range of charities and community good causes. It does this by holding sessions where you can donate items from the 'collecting list'. The Merley session is always on the first Saturday of the month from 10:15 until 11:30 in the Lantern Church Hub. (The Lantern Church kindly let us use their hall). The sessions are always busy, and it is always a good chance to catch up with people and have a chat about all sorts of things. Some people only come along every two or three months and some come every month.

What's collected does change over time as the recycling landscape changes. The easiest way to find out more is to come along to see what we do. You can also find out more on our website <http://winonwaste.org/>

NEW TOWN COUNCILS

We are getting Town Councils, and the first elections are soon.

Merley will be part of the large Poole Town Council. (Broadstone will have a separate Town Council) We will get to elect one Town Councillor. Altogether there will be 21 Councillors for the Poole Town Council, and it will be separate to the BCP unitary authority. The Town Council's role is to give communities stronger voices and empower local people to influence decisions on things like high streets, local shopping areas, community events and festivals, Christmas lights and seasonal celebrations, local facilities and neighbourhood priorities. Make sure that you are registered to vote and, a personal plea from me, encourage anyone who you know who has had their 18th birthday in the last three years to register too.

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote>

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 : MNW Newsletter and information on **MCA website** <https://merleycc.co.uk>

Thanks to Create Design Print, Poole who have printed our newsletter for many years.

See www.cdp-printers.co.uk.

Discuss your print needs: 01202 601111 and
sales@cdp-printers.co.uk

Information for Co-ordinators

NOTE: NEW DATE FOR AGM (6th May been cancelled)

'NEXT STAGE FOR MNW' - Members to vote

Wednesday **24th June at 7.30pm**
in Main Hall Merley Community Centre, Harrier Drive

Message to all MNW Co-ordinators

Thank you for all your work delivering paper copies of Autumn Newsletter to your areas. This Spring edition will involve the same work but developments may mean this is our last newsletter. The Committee thanks you for all you have done, some of you over decades.

Delete 6th May from your diaries for AGM and put **new date 24th June**. See you at the AGM when it will be decided if it is time to wind up Merley Neighbourhood Watch due to changing times and lack of volunteers for the committee and co-ordinator roles.

Encourage other members to attend.

Please deliver the Spring newsletter to **all members** on your current list (combined email and paper).

An email version is no longer an option.

Merley Neighbourhood Watch Committee 2025/26

Chair:	Cllr Richard Burton
Treasurer:	John Keenan
Minutes Secretary:	Heather Craven
Membership Officer & Newsletter Compiler:	Brian Dickinson
Co-ordinator Liaison:	Angela Mullens
Newsletter Editor & Defib Liaison:	Sue Weall

Defibrillator Update

Following responses to a request in the October newsletter, Sue Weall, has now welcomed 3 new Merley volunteers to the team. Matt Beavan, Helen Hart, and Mike Martin. Each month Helen and Matt check the Defibs outside The Lantern Church and in Selkirk Close on the Community Lounge wall. After any deployment by Southwest Ambulance Service, Sue or Mike will check and make the Defibs ready for future use. Many thanks for their support.

Defibrillators are now Nine Years Old

It may be hard to believe but it was December 2016 and February 2017 when the two Merley Defibs were installed. Win on Waste has funded for the last three years the annual support and maintenance costs. Thanks to community scrap wire collections, over £1,000 has been raised. Now it is time to replace the Defibs. A bid has been made by Sue Weall for CIL Neighbourhood Portion funding from BCP Council to purchase a new Defibrillator (Lantern Church site). A decision is due to be made in March.

Sue Weall is pleased to share that Nisa's 'Making a Difference Locally' (MADL) charity that supports local good causes has agreed to purchase a new Defib and replacement cover for the Selkirk Close Defib. She is in the process of making the formal application. Nisa and MADL purchased the original Defib in February 2017. Many thanks for their continued support.

Donations have been promised from Merley Neighbourhood Watch, The Lantern Church and Win on Waste towards annual support and maintenance costs. Community Defib Awareness sessions are planned.

Bearwood & Merley Ward Councillors

Surgeries - Advice and information surgeries are held on the first Thursday of the month in the car park behind Bearwood Community Centre, King John Close, 5:30pm to 6:30 pm and the second Thursday of the month in the precinct outside the Merley shops, Sopwith Crescent, 5:30pm to 6:30 pm. Look for the orange umbrellas.

Mobile: 07776 237874

Email: Marcus.Andrews@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Mobile: 07729 524570

Email: David.Brown@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Mobile: 07999 381458

Email: Richard.Burton@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

The Merley Events Page

Merley Community Centre activities

Regular Events at Merley Community Centre

Please see the updated webpage <https://merleycc.co.uk/> for more details of the diverse range of activities held throughout the day and evening for all.

New Classes

Graham's Local Amateur Dancing

Weekly beginners sequence dance class 10.30-11.30am every Saturday,.
Tea Dance with tea and cake on the last Sunday of every month 3-5.30pm.
Everything £7 per person. Sequence dancing incorporates Waltz, Latin, Rumba.
Everyone is welcome. Couples or singles. Follow us on Facebook, Graham's Local
Amateur Dancing – G.L.A.D. or email jamesleyland2000@hotmail.co.uk.

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.

The Lantern Church

Contact details for the following groups: Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm
Tel. 01202 887733 or see www.thelanternchurch.org

Saturdads

A fun morning on the first Saturday of the month in the Church - 10am-11:30am.
It's a chance for dads, granddads and uncles to bring their kids aged up to 7 years old for a relaxing time of activities, monthly challenges, discussion and Bible stories.
Bacon Roll for adults and toast for kids - all for £1 per family. Open to all dads/ granddads including any don't normally come to church. All welcome to join the fun.

Mixed Blessings – Tuesdays 10:30am-12pm

A lively club for older 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)

Lantern Youth Club – Second Friday of the month, 7-9pm

The Lantern Youth Club is a welcoming space for all young people in school years 7-13. There are various activities on offer including a tuck shop, table tennis, pool, gaming area, and chill-out zone. Free entry.

Men of Hope – third Friday of every month, 7:30-9:30pm

This is a community group for Men (like a Youth Group, but for Men!) Enjoy a game of pool, table football, ping pong, and darts etc. Free entry, soft drinks available or bring your own beer!

Easter events

There will be two screenings of a 2025 release animated Easter film, great for kids, teenagers, and adults. Whilst it is free to come and watch the film, booking is essential via Lantern Church website to secure your seat.

Good Friday (3rd April) there will be opportunity for families with younger children to come together in the Lantern Hub, followed by a more reflective service in the main church that will be more suited to older children, teens, and adults.

Easter Day (5th April) at 10am as we celebrate our risen Jesus, or at 7pm for a baptism celebration and worship. We'd love to invite any who would like to join us.

Full details can be found on our website thelanternchurch.org/easter

News from the Lantern Church

We have recently appointed and welcomed a new Associate Vicar to serve alongside Mike Tufnell. Will Burditt has been serving as curate over in Blandford Forum for the past couple of years and now joins the team here in Merley along with his wife and 2 daughters.

2026 sees us celebrating our Jubilee year - 50 years as a church family, having been planted into Merley from the Parish Church in Canford Magna.

There will be several events taking place over the bank holiday weekend May 23rd - 25th. Check thelanternchurch.org/jubilee for updates.

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The Merley Events Page (continued)

Canford Magna Parish Church

Contact details: Tel. 01202 882270 admin@canfordparish.org
Office Hours: 10am-12pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays See www.canfordparish.org for events and Easter services.

Canford Magna Parish Church Easter services:

Sunday 29 th March	Palm Sunday Service at 10.30am
Tuesday 31 st March	Holy Week Reflective Service at 7.30pm
Friday 3 rd April	Good Friday Service at 2pm
Sunday 5 th April	Easter Sunday Service at 10.30am

The Lantern Church and Merley to celebrate 50 years

The Lantern Church are planning to celebrate their 50th birthday over the Bank Holiday weekend with a variety of community activities running from the 23-25th May, including a Sunday street party lunch on the 24th!

It is in fact an opportunity to celebrate 50 years or so of the Merley estate, not just The Lantern and so they would welcome opportunities to partner with others in the community in celebrating this significant milestone, sharing stories and photos of life here over the years. More information soon.

DO BE IN TOUCH if interested: info@thelanternchurch.org

The Harvey Practice

MMRV - Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella (chickenpox).

From the 1st January 2026 the MMRV vaccine replaced the MMR providing combined, single-injection protection against measles, mumps, rubella, and chickenpox.

Please contact the Practice for more information.

Merley Surgery: 01202 841288

See <https://www.theharveypractice.co.uk>

USEFUL INFORMATION

. REMAIN VIGILANT

Remain vigilant and report anything suspicious or anyone acting suspiciously, to Dorset Police : <https://www.dorset.police.uk> or **RING 101**

If a crime is in progress **RING 999**.

DORSET ALERT

Dorset Alert is operated by Dorset Police which is a two-way messaging system to keep residents informed about local crime, incidents and public safety matters.

Sign up on www.dorsetalert.co.uk.

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



BCP Council Crisis Advice Scheme helpline 01202 096622 or for further information www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

National Neighbourhood Watch Our Watch

See <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk> for news, national articles, and advice

MNW DISCLAIMER

The Editor and MNW do not recommend or endorse any trader advertising in this Newsletter or by reference elsewhere.

Hillier Wilson Estate Agents - Established 1992

Director Rob Harvey has lived in Merley for over 30 years and brings extensive knowledge of the local property market.

To book your free-market appraisal please call 01202 693388 or email rob@hillierwilson.co.uk.



NISA LOCAL

Thanks to local support from Nisa Local Merley and their charity partner 'Making a Difference Locally'. Their recent £1360 donation has funded a replacement Defibrillator at Selkirk Close.

Thank you for this community resource.

