



Watch Schemes Newsletter

Somerset

Autumn 2016

Area Commander

I find myself reach reaching for a jumper and turning the lights on my car both morning and evenings as the summer seems to have raced by. It has been a very busy time for the police in terms of dealing with high demand within the resources available to us.

This is an all too familiar theme within public services - we know that demand in the NHS has peaks within the winter months, the reverse for us in policing. Neighbourhood Watch is, I think, the largest voluntary service organisation in the United Kingdom. A key aspect of Neighbourhood Watch is the prevention of offending by providing an environment and community that deters crime.

If crimes occur, Neighbourhood Watch is also there to assist the police to solve crime. We continue to rely on your invaluable and essential voluntary work to help us deal with the vast array of matters which we get called to.

I should like to personally thank you for being an important part of the fabric of strong active communities.

Mike Prior

District Superintendent
Somerset

Local Policing Support Team

As the children return to school let me introduce you to Kate Blackburn the **Youth Project Co-ordinator**. Kate works out of Bridgwater Police Centre but covers the whole of Somerset working with schools, community groups, statutory and voluntary agencies promoting the youth agenda, a partnership approach to reducing youth crime, and being actively involved in problem solving initiatives in relation to young people.

This year has already seen Kate giving advice to young people about '*getting naked online*' and the risks of child sexual exploitation, as well as providing support to your local PCSO's to deliver Road Safety lessons to children in primary education.

On 30th November Somerset Policing area will host a Children's Takeover day. We will open our doors to 20 children aged between 11 and 14yrs who will have the opportunity to demonstrate their problem solving skills. We hope to understand how children use social media and why they are becoming victims of cyber-crime at such a young age. Their task will involve presenting their findings to Senior Police Leaders and our team of staff will use the information we gain from this to inform our engagement with young people as they become the citizens of our future.

Inspector Joanna Ross

Local Policing Support Team, Somerset

SEASONAL CRIME REDUCTION

(advice from our Crime Reduction Officer)

With the evenings starting to draw in, it is perhaps time to check your house security. Leaving lights on timers can give 'illusion of occupancy' - you can even buy a timer device that makes it look as if you are at home watching the TV. This is particularly useful when you are going out during the evening taking part in hobbies, going to the theatre, watching Carnivals across the county, going on holiday etc.

Think also about external 'dusk til dawn' lighting – modern LED lights are very cheap to run and will only cost about 1p to have on during the hours of darkness.

For those in the rural community you may also be topping up your oil tanks in readiness for the winter. Criminals take advantage of this and we often see a rise in heating oil thefts during the autumn. Consider adding an approved padlock to the tank or perhaps a tank alarm which can be linked to your domestic system or can even send a message to your smartphone'.

SEASONAL LEAFLETS

Halloween evening can cause concern for some residents and they prefer not to have callers at their door during the dark evenings. To help prevent revellers calling at that time we have some high visibility flyers available that can be displayed in doors and windows for that evening – contact Lindsey at the office for supplies (details below).



We also have a limited number of leaflets giving advice for the forthcoming Christmas period – again supplies are available through Lindsey at the office

REPORTING CRIME/SUSPICIOUS ACITIVITY

It is important to remember that all crime and suspicious activity should be reported to the police. Numbers to use are:

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| 999 | Including emergencies which are life-threatening, in fear of safety, crime in progress, bogus callers. |
| 101 | To report incidents that require non urgent police attention including reporting of crime, suspicious activity, intelligence. |
| 0800-555111 | To report suspicious activity and intelligence matters anonymously. |

You can also report crime, suspected crime, make general enquiries, complaints or contact Crimestoppers via the Police website:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/>

OFFICE DETAILS

To change co-ordinator/scheme details, to order leaflets or if you have queries relating to Neighbourhood Watch matters the office details are:

Watch Scheme Administrator
Bridgwater Police Centre
Sandy Padgett House
Express Park, Bristol Road
Bridgwater TA6 4RR

Telephone 101 (switchboard)
Or 01278-644799 (direct dial)

Email: lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk