



# Watch Schemes Newsletter

## Somerset

### Spring 2016

#### Area Commander

As we enter the latter part of January, it seems a little late to wish you all a Happy New Year but I wanted to begin my first message to you of 2016 as I ended 2015 and that is by simply saying thank you for all of your continued hard work and support. You will not need me to remind you that the role played by Neighbourhood Watch is intrinsic to the success of your local policing. The eyes and ears provided by your members and co-ordinated by yourselves without doubt add significant value to my ability to lead the policing team in Somerset. I am constantly pleased and surprised by the willingness of volunteers to help support the delivery of policing services and community safety and as the Area Commander I am in no doubt that we would be far poorer without your significant contributions. Once again, thank you all and keep up the good work.

*San Wyllie*

Chief Superintendent  
Area Commander, Somerset

#### Local Policing Support Team

The Local Policing Support Team provide a specialist service in support of the officers that are out on the ground and in November last year this service was recognised in the form of several awards.

The Rural Crime Team received a Special Recognition Award at the PCC's Neighbourhood Policing Awards, our team young apprentice Alys Graham was nominated for Apprentice of the Year Award and your very own Lindsey Stone, NHW, won the PCC Pride Award for excellent customer service.

It was a great achievement for the team to win so many awards in its first year of creation and I was very proud to see what we had achieved so far.

As we move into 2016 we are busy looking at rural crime trends and anti-social behaviour as well as reviewing our delivery into local schools and planning for events in early summer. In the coming newsletters I look forward to introducing you to member of the team and explaining a little more detail about what we do.

*Inspector Joanna Ross*

Local Policing Support Team  
Somerset

## New Gadget for Christmas?

### Make sure you protect it...

Help keep your smartphone, laptop or tablet safe by downloading free tracking software such as [www.preyproject.com](http://www.preyproject.com) which helps recover gadgets if they are lost or stolen.



You can also register your new gifts for free on the Immobilise online database at: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). Immobilise helps police to identify the owners of recovered property and simplifies insurance claims.

If the worst happens and you are separated from your gadget, you can report it as lost or as stolen by calling the general 101 police number or by [filling in our online crime and incident form](#).

*Please remember - if you are reporting matters to the 101 or 999 numbers ask the call handler to 'tag' or mark the call Neighbourhood Watch.*

**DID YOU KNOW** – across the Avon and Somerset Constabulary during the 2014/15 year there were:

**479** persons killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions

**11013** burglaries

**24819** domestic incidents

**Obstructing the pavement** is a police issue but the vehicle must be causing an actual obstruction – unable to pass. General police threshold test consists of assessing if a guide dog, wheelchair or child's pushchair can pass.

## ACTION FRAUD

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, even if it was unsuccessful you should report it. If you do not, remember that the fraudster will learn by this experience and may be successful next time. The national agency 'Action Fraud' deals specifically with fraud issues of all types taking reports of incidents and giving advice.

Contact via their website at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by phone during office hours on **0300-123-2040**.

## LOOKING FOR A BUSINESS? ONE YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN?

Buy With Confidence is a national approved trader scheme operated locally by Devon and Somerset Trading Standards Service.

Buy With Confidence businesses have given their commitment to trading fairly and offering excellent customer service. Every business listed has undergone a series of detailed checks by trading standards officers before being approved as a member of the scheme. Buy with Confidence operates on a not for profit basis and re-invests surplus income in development and promotion of the Scheme. We have printed a directory which lists all of our Trading Standards approved businesses in Devon and Somerset. You can access the Directory by selecting the following link: <http://www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/buy-with-confidence/devon-somerset-buy-with-confidence-directory/>

Or contact Lindsey at the office (details below) for a hard copy.

## OFFICE CONTACT:

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