



Watch Schemes Newsletter

Somerset

Autumn 2018

Area Commander

A rainy and starting to be dark break of day, passing school children (without coats!) “creeping like snails unwillingly to school”. Last night I reset my automatic security lights to come on earlier at home. A job slightly easier as the internet and a smart phone allows me to do this quickly and remotely. But, nevertheless, a good tip as a dark house is an invitation to burglars.

You will start to see more technology on the streets as PCs and PCSOs become increasingly equipped with police smart phones and laptops. This will break the tether which in the past required officers to return to the station to update our computer system. I had to check myself the other day as I saw some officers, which to me looked like they were accessing their private phones and were disinterested in what was going on in the street, but they were updating our command and control system remotely without the need to radio into to the control room. Times change and we all need to get used to that.

You will have hopefully heard of the investment we are making in Neighbourhood Policing and from 1st October 2018 we have put a number of operational changes in place to underline that commitment. We will closely monitor these changes to ensure that are delivering on our commitment to you to have local officers (PCs and PCSOs) embedded within your communities, supporting and making these communities safer and stronger.

Mike Prior
Superintendent, Neighbourhoods & Partnerships (Somerset)

Neighbourhood Policing Support Team

As we move into Autumn then Winter it is crucial to be aware of the issues that cause us all concern during this period. That's why it is important to heed the good advice below in relation to some simple things you can do to protect yourselves and your property.

Regarding Burglary, there is some good news...Despite a change in the recording requirements set by the Home Office (which now include shed and garage breaks within the figures we publish) there has been a 13.8% drop across the Constabulary in reported crimes since April. This equates to nearly 800 fewer Burglary victims! There is still a lot of work to do and I can assure everyone that reducing Burglary and providing victims with an outstanding service will be a strong focus moving forward.

Don't forget you can find out about Beat Team and Patrol activity, where we are, what we are doing, our successes and issues, through Twitter, Facebook and on the Force Website (as well as the Community Alert messages you already receive). Please can I encourage you to sign up to your local Twitter and Facebook pages so you can follow the Constabulary's journey in making you feel safe and be safe. We are out there and we are active, so please continue to be involved as you are our eyes and ears within Communities.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Inspector Lee Moore
Neighbourhood Policing Support Team

SEASONAL CRIME REDUCTION ADVICE

Autumn is with us again and we reiterate advice about making your home look occupied even when you are out – leaving lights on timers etc. It is also a busy time of the year for seasonal celebrations and activities, some of which are mentioned below.

Halloween – flyers asking Trick or Treaters not to call at the door are available. Contact your local Neighbourhood Watch office for your free copies



Carnival Season – many people take the opportunity to go out to watch these spectacular events. Make sure that houses are secure when they are unattended and make your property look occupied even when it is not.

Bonfire Night – again a time for people to go out and enjoy themselves, and again make sure that homes etc. are secure and that pets are kept in a safe place.

Christmas – Don't leave temptation in the way of the would-be criminal **VEHICLES** – ensure no shopping or personal items are on display in a vehicle when it is unattended.

HOME - don't leave wrapped presents on display at home, whether they are underneath the tree or not.

ON-LINE - take extra care buying on-line. Use secure payments, keep passwords secure, ensure security on your computer is up to date, and don't open Emails or attachments that you are not expecting.

Free seasonal advice leaflets available from your local Neighbourhood Watch office.



REASONABLE CARE

Be aware - if you publicise your forthcoming holiday on social media or post updates while you are away you *may* be putting your house insurance at risk. Most insurance companies have a 'reasonable care' clause for use in cases where doors or windows have been left open and a property deemed insecure. But this clause is increasingly being used in cases where victims of burglaries have posted holiday pictures or announced forthcoming trips.

CRIME REDUCTION ADVICE

The police website has a good deal of useful crime reduction advice available that you can access by searching the website (www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) or by using the following link <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-advice/>

Advice ranges from keeping yourself safe, to protecting your home and even keeping yourself safe on line.

If you do not have access to a computer then contact your local Watch Scheme Administrator (detailed below) who will be able to help with a limited number of paper copies.

OFFICE DETAILS

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

OPERATION TONIC

As part of the summer road safety campaign police arrested 133 people for drink and drug driving during a month-long crackdown.

Of those arrested, 74 have been charged and investigations continue into 30 more. In total over 370 people were breathalysed.

The highest reading during the campaign was nearly 4 times the legal limit.