



# Watch Schemes Newsletter

## Somerset

### Summer 2017

#### **Area Commander**

In my last update I talked about a structural change the Constabulary was going through. This has taken place and you will be pleased to hear that front line police officers have been protected from further reductions. The Constabulary is absolutely committed to delivering Neighbourhood Policing.

The savings are focused on support to the front line and we have slimmed down our senior officer structure. As a result I am now the senior police officer within Somerset. For me this is an honour, I was born in Somerset, have lived most of my life in the county and do so now. I am determined that Somerset remains a safe place to live and work and am sure you share this ambition.

The police are working ever closer with other parts of the public sector in particular Health/NHS and local government to ensure that we get most from the "Somerset pound" and reduce the number of fellow citizens who live in persistent vulnerability.

This is again where the ethos of Neighbourhood Watch can help, it's not just about crime but about strong, healthy, resilient communities who look out for each other, especially in times of need. But like any investment we need to "put in" before you can "withdraw" and I know that Neighbourhood Watch is a key contributor to community life, thank you.

*Mike Prior*

**Superintendent, Neighbourhood & Partnerships - Somerset**

#### **Local Policing Support Team**

As spring comes to an end and we start to see summer approaching we have finished the spring clean of the department. As part of this change I will be moving on, but the members of the team will continue to deliver the service you expect.

Our Rural Crime team are busy again. Last summer saw a spike in livestock theft and the team are working hard to prevent this happening again this year. Keep your eyes and ears open. If you see livestock being moved and you think it is a strange time of day or night, please call us. Legitimate farmers do not mind being stopped by us and this may prevent or detect crime.

Many members of the team will be at the Bath and West Show 31<sup>st</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This year you will see a multi-agency stand with Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Reduction, Rural Crime and Police Cadets along with Fire Cadets, Ambulance Service and Road Safety. Please come along and say hello if you are visiting it would be lovely to see some of the faces of those we send messages to

Have a safe and crime free summer.

*Inspector Joanna Mines*

**Local Policing Support Team, Somerset**

# SEASONAL CRIME REDUCTION

advice from our Crime Reduction Officer

Now that we are entering the summer/holiday season it is especially important not to become complacent about security. It is the period in which the opportunist criminals take advantage and:

- Enter open front or rear doors whilst residents are in the garden.
- Enter doors or windows that have been left open or insecure at night whilst residents are asleep.
- Reach through insecure windows to steal property.

When you go on holiday:

- Take steps to make your house look occupied.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you.
- Put a timer on some of your lights – do not leave a landing light on.
- Cancel your milk and paper deliveries.
- Ask a neighbour or friend to park their vehicle on your drive.
- Cut your lawns and hedges and make sure the hedge to the front of your property is cut to below three feet to aid surveillance.
- Do not advertise that you are going away on social media.



## WHO CAN YOU CALL?

Every year the Constabulary receive over 200,000 999 calls, but in 2016, 1 in 5 of these were *not* emergency calls. In fact last year 85 calls a day were classified as 'inappropriate use of 999' and 37 calls a day should have been directed to another agency. We get calls asking for taxi numbers, opening hours of the local convenience store and over Christmas we even had a call to 999 from someone reporting a queue jumper in the Santa Grotto. Please remember



**CALL 999 if:** there is crime in progress or just occurred; you are concerned for someone's welfare; there is an incident on the motorway; you witness suspicious activity that is happening now

**CALL 101** or contact us on-line at [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact): if a crime is not in progress or has not just happened; instance that is not a crime; you are not concerned for welfare; general enquiries.

**CALL CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800-555111** to report suspicious activity anonymously.

## ROYAL BATH & WEST SHOW



The Emergency Services will be attending this year's Royal Bath & West Show between 31 May and 3 June and will have a joint stand adjacent to the 'purple gate'. If you are attending the show then please pop in and see us – police personnel will include Dog Section, Police Cadets, Crime Reduction, Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Crime and more.

### OFFICE DETAILS

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

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](mailto:lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk)