



Watch Schemes Newsletter

Somerset

Spring 2018

District Superintendent

I am writing this from home as I just don't get the time at work to deal with everything. The nature of policing is so varied, challenging and sometimes people forget the emergency service element. This does make it very hard to plan even my day let alone policing activity for 2018 in Somerset.

As I stare at the gap where the Christmas tree was, happy in the knowledge that I have recycled it into my log and fire stick store, I am reminded that I wrote at Christmas about the importance of communities. An invite has popped into my calendar for a Community Carers Launch event in February. It grabbed my attention as it's a topic after my own heart and that there was also a mention of a buffet. It is also in the next community to where I live, only 600 yards from my first childhood home and I take much comfort from my sense of place within my community. I also take much pride from my job which is all about helping communities to be strong and safe.

You may have heard about "One Teams" which the police support along with local Council and agencies. One Teams are mainly found in communities which, for whatever reason, are struggling and have been struggling for some time. The benefits of these teams stretch from children starting out at school to older people who feel isolated in their homes. In 2018 I am working hard to get more support and information from our Health Services about the people they know who are having difficulties with health issues. That's not about their medical condition or treatment, which is private, but about the fact they may need some extra support or help. The police do provide this where we can, but One Team or stronger communities should be doing this. Sounds simple but it's quite hard. I am determined that those who serve you do so in an effective, efficient and empathetic manner. It requires a consistent intent and desire from those involved, I am pleased to see this developing.

I have not forgotten about crime, but you might be surprised to learn that that's only about one third of what we are asked to deal with by you, our communities.

Superintendent Mike Prior

Neighbourhood Policing Support Team

I hope you all had a festive and relaxing Christmas and enjoyed celebrating the New Year with family, friends and colleagues.

As I alluded to in the autumn newsletter, there were significant changes in the structure of the team in 2017, but one thing that didn't change was Lindsey's commitment to Neighbourhood Watch in Somerset. She continues to provide help and guidance, driving new schemes and supporting existing ones, so please reciprocate that support by keeping in contact and by continuing to be our eyes and ears in the Community.

Since Autumn we have had Halloween and Bonfire Night which traditionally are very busy times for the Police however we worked closely in Somerset with Schools, shops, other organisations and of course Neighbourhood Watch to deliver crime prevention messages and support. I can safely say that this period was one of the quietest we have had for calls for service in recent years.

Similarly, the Christmas and New Year period is also very busy and we worked closely with Licensed premises in particular, providing extra Police patrols in key areas at key times helping to "keep the lid" on potential problems. Christmas was still very busy for us, it always is, but it seemed quieter than recent years in terms of crime and disorder across Somerset

We clearly cannot afford to be complacent. There are still challenges to face in 2018, in particular managing demand, but through the increasing use of smarter technology we will be able to face these challenges in a more targeted and effective way. This should help us identify the key issues that need dealing with and become more efficient in managing local demand.

Inspector Lee Moore

SEASONAL ADVICE FROM OUR CRIME REDUCTION OFFICER

With Spring hopefully 'around the corner', many of us will be thinking about getting back into our gardens. So have a look at the security of your shed or outbuildings.



- Before upgrading locks or fitting alarms have a look at the shed structure first. Is it sound or are parts a bit rotten? Is the roof secure? Is the door and door frame still sound?
- There's no point upgrading locks or fitting alarms if the thief can kick through a weakened door panel or lift an insecure roof.
- When upgrading your locks and hinges use 'clutch screws' or coach bolts as fixings as these cannot be undone.
- Double up on the door shackle and hasp with one fitted a third of the way up and the second a third of the way done from the top of the door. The hinges can then be reinforced with hinge pins.
- Choose closed shackle padlocks preferably with a 'Sold Secure' rating. These are more resistant to attack than conventional padlocks.
- If your shed or outbuilding has a window, be sure to cover the inside so that the thief cannot see in and see what's available to steal. Opaque film applied to the inside works well here, it also makes the window more difficult to break. Consider fitting laminated glass or steel security mesh – or both.



If someone does manage to gain access to your shed, make life difficult for them by:

- Chaining everything together with a heavy duty chain and padlock.
- If the shed has a concrete base, consider a ground anchor and chain your mower and bikes to this. You can now get wall anchors, they strengthen the structure of the shed considerably.
- Mark everything with your post code. 'Damage' mark if necessary – make it less attractive to the thief.
- Always consider registering any property that has a serial number with www.immobilise.com

If you see something - say something. Report it to the Police

Tel 101 (or 999 in an emergency)

Or via the website at

<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
Express Park, Bristol Road
Bridgwater TA6 4RR

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

Email: lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PLEASE NOTE – the office is only staffed during office hours and therefore not suitable to report crime, suspicious activity or intelligence