



Watch Schemes Newsletter

Somerset

Autumn 2017

Area Commander

Sadly during the course of this year we have seen some truly awful and shocking attacks on people just going about their ordinary business, not just in the United Kingdom but also abroad. We have also seen the heroic defence of our freedoms and liberties by your police, we all recall the sacrifice made by PC Keith Palmer GM and the serious injuries sustained by PC Wayne Marques in London.

Policing is a very demanding and difficult role and the public expects the highest standard of service. We are financially challenged and pulled from pillar to post in terms of demand but protection of the public is our key role.

I am proud of what we do and also proud to have your support as active citizens - and lest we forget, very proud of those whose selfless actions shine out to defeat those who seek to undermine our way of life.

Mike Prior

District Superintendent

Neighbourhood Policing Support Team

As the very busy Summer comes to an end I would like to introduce you to the new Neighbourhood Policing Support Team so you know what we do and how we can help.

Last April the pre-existing Local Policing Support Teams merged to become the Force wide Neighbourhood Policing Support Team with responsibility for Crime Prevention and Reduction , Crime Prevention Carpenters , Licensing , Restorative Justice , Rural Crime, Citizens in Policing and of course Neighbourhood Watch.

Together with Sergeants Nigel Chapman and Jon Hill, I manage the team Constabulary wide to ensure that we work together to deal with the matters that most affect our communities, and also that there is continued local buy-in and support, as each geographical area has its own unique issues and concerns. Key to this is Lindsey who will continue to provide her usual unwavering support to Somerset Neighbourhood Watch, and do her best to link in with the rest of the Team to make sure Somerset residents feel safe and be safe

Another significant development is the formal establishment of the National Neighbourhood Watch Association within Avon and Somerset. This is a volunteer body of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators who will work closely with Lindsey and other members of the team to develop Neighbourhood Watch, promote and encourage best practice, provide materials and support and deliver advice and key messages. We very much welcome them on board and look forward to developing this relationship over the coming year.

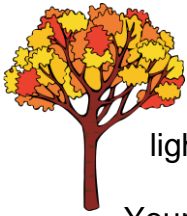
Thank you all for you continued support.

Inspector Lee Moore

Neighbourhood Policing Support Team

SEASONAL ADVICE

From our Crime Reduction Officer



Prepare for the end of British Summer Time (BST) by looking at and checking your lights (interior and exterior) and timers.

Your timers will need adjusting to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and also adjusted to take into account the shorter days and longer nights.

Review your exterior lighting (burglars do not like lights). If you currently use high wattage conventional lighting, think about switching to LED 'dusk till dawn' units. Bear in mind that bright lights create dark shadows, shadows that somebody can hide in. LED lights are very reliable and very cheap to run at about 1p a day.

It will depend on the situation but in the majority of locations we now recommend 'dusk till dawn' lighting over reactive lighting.



Please also take the opportunity to check security of sheds, garages and outbuildings to ensure that locks are in good working order. This includes checking doors and windows and consider securing larger items (such as pedal cycles, mowers, chain saws etc) within the building by anchoring to the floor or wall.

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 free 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 Christmas period – again supplies are available through Lindsey at the office

TELEPHONE SERVICES

If you are receiving unsolicited calls from companies consider contacting your telephone provider about their 'call barring' services. Some companies offer a free service that may help reduce 'nuisance' calls.



BE PROUD POLICING AWARDS

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens, is again launching the Be Proud Policing Awards that aim to recognise outstanding work by officers, police staff, special constables and volunteers. Do you know of an award winning policing team? Has a police officer, member of staff or volunteer made a life changing difference to you?

Now is your chance to nominate them for an award either on-line at www.beproudawards.com or you can telephone 01275-816377 for paper copies of the details/nomination form. Closing date for nominations is 27 January 2018.

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