



Sedgemoor North East Beat Team

AVON & SOMERSET POLICE

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

August

Dear Neighbour Watch Members,

I'm sorry for the delay in getting the most recent Newsletter to you.

Bike Marking

On the 28th July we held a Bike Marking session in Cheddar Gorge. With lots of people out on their bikes at this time of year we wanted to get as many bikes signed up to the Bike Register scheme as we could, to deter theft and also assist in returning bikes should they be stolen. We had a really productive day with 40 bikes registered, we hope to do it again soon. This is a service we can offer anytime and if you know of anyone who is a keen cyclist and would like to sign up for **FREE** we are more than happy to come to the home address.

Burglaries

Unfortunately in August and July we have seen an increase in Dwelling and Non-Dwelling Burglaries across our beat, but the majority of reports have been in Axbridge and Cheddar. Remember most criminals will not target your home if the risk to them of being seen, noticed and getting caught is too great. Consider outdoor lighting, a low front boundary (hedges or fences) and keep items which may assist such as ladders and bins secured.

If you have a shed or outhouse ensure your tools inside are secure, and the building is locked with a Closed shackle padlock.

If your shed has windows, thieves will be able to see whether your shed is worth breaking into. If they see something that's valuable, they are more likely to break in. Windows are also a weak point in the shed's security, allowing a criminal to easily gain access by breaking the glass or frame. If your shed is purely used for storage, then you don't need windows at all and you can block them out completely. You can do this with stick-on, opaque security sheets that have the added bonus of preventing glass shattering, or with a glass-frosting spray.

If you work in your shed and you need the light, consider blinds or curtains, ensuring that they are fully closed when you're not there.

Rogue Traders

We also received calls from residents in Cheddar reporting a male has been to their door offering garden services. One of the victims allowed them to remove a bush and was then quoted £600, far beyond a reasonable price. This type of selling is called Rogue Trading.

Rogue traders are people who call at your door pretending to be qualified tradespeople and offering to do work on your home. They may seem friendly and persuasive but too often they target vulnerable elderly people and carry out poor quality, expensive household repairs to roofs, driveways or gardens. They may claim to know your neighbours and have done work for them but often the work they promise to complete didn't need doing in the first place.

You decide whether you need any work done to our house, not them.

Not Sure?

Follow these simple steps;

1. **Check the trader's identity:** were you expecting them? If not, but you are interested in what they are selling, ask them to come back at a more convenient time and try to have another person with you.
2. **Take control:** you ask the questions and try to remember that it is a business situation.
3. **Be aware that doorstep sellers are not your friends:** watch out for clever sales techniques where you may be made to feel like you have lots in common.
4. **Don't sign on the spot:** even if it means that you could lose a 'special discount'. Take time to reflect, think about your purchase and shop around.
5. **You have a right to cancel:** If you do purchase something for more than £35 from doorstep sales people you have 7 days to change your mind. This information should be given to you in writing by the sales person.

If you think you've been taken in by a rogue trader, please let us know by calling 101, contact Trading Standards on 08454 040 506 or talk to a friend or relative.

This will be my last Neighbourhood Watch Letter, as from 30th September I will be leaving my PCSO post to start my Training for Police Constable.

A new PCSO has been allocated to take my place, so either she or Jake will take over the newsletters and I'm sure she will introduce herself to you all soon.

Take Care.

PCSO Beth Harrington

Contact details

If you are after advice or have a concern please use the following contact details for the beat team.

PCSO 9141 Beth HARRINGTON 07802874620 9141@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO 7599 Jake DADE 07889659268 7599@avonandsomerset.police.uk

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER TO SEE WHAT WE GET UP TO EACH DAY.

<https://twitter.com/?lang=en-gb>

Please note these details are not to be used for emergencies. If you require an immediate response please call 999 if an incident is ongoing.

