



Watch Schemes Newsletter

Somerset

Spring 2017

Area Commander

As the cold short days of winter lengthen towards the optimism of spring, the work of Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators as part of the wider policing family, will inevitably change to reflect the different challenges of longer days and shorter nights. Traditional increases in acquisitive crime such as petty theft, and much more seriously burglary, are often associated with the changing seasons. This poses challenges for my police officers and staff across the Somerset area however, these challenges can be offset if we work together with our communities and the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are at the vanguard of that support.

We continue to face financial challenges as a service and we are currently undergoing a restructuring programme to help us not only achieve necessary savings but to take the opportunity to enhance and improve our service delivery. The role of volunteers is a key tenant of that strategy and more will emerge on this theme as the year progresses.

In the meantime, may I thank you most sincerely for the work that you do as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators which amongst other things provides significant reassurance to our more elderly and vulnerable members of the community across Somerset. Please keep up the good work and commitment.

Chief Supt Ian Wylie
Somerset Area Policing Commander

Local Policing Support Team

The Local Policing Support Team had a busy 2016 and is looking forward to the challenges ahead in 2017.

Last year we saw particular problems with people dealing drugs visiting our county towns from cities such as London and Manchester. The Anti-social Behaviour team (ASB) consists of 2 Co-ordinators who work across Somerset, Kate Rollinson and Julie Crocket, supported by 5 administrative posts. They are experts in their field and provide support and advice to officers in the Local Policing teams who are dealing with our communities suffering anti-social behaviour.

The ASB team used powers from the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act to target this activity. Across Somerset we issued in excess of 50 Community Protection Warnings and Notices last year often with conditions preventing those people from entering our towns. This is a problem we continue to target and I would encourage any of you who witness any anti-social behaviour within your communities to speak with your local policing teams or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Inspector Joanna Mines
Local Policing Support Team, Somerset

SEASONAL CRIME REDUCTION

advice from our Crime Reduction Officer

Many householders are now starting to think about spring cleaning. In addition to cleaning, painting and decorating have a look at your home security. Is that door lock a bit worn? Where are the keys to that window lock? Fit that new hasp and padlock to the shed you have been meaning to do.

Have a look at your boundaries fencing and hedges. Repair and secure fencing damaged by the winter weather. Did your hedges get a bit overgrown last year, reducing surveillance around your property, well now is the time to prune them back – before the wild birds start building their nests.

As part of your spring clean have the house alarm checked and serviced. This should be an annual ritual which goes a long way in stopping false alarms and unnecessary calls to the police.

We will all, as part of our clear out, be recycling boxes from gifts and presents received at Christmas. Do not forget to fold these boxes 'inside out' so that the criminal is less likely to identify what goods they contained.

OTHER ADVICE



We have a leaflet giving general advice about Protecting Your Home and Belongings which your members may find of interest. It briefly covers matters to do with your home, garden, valuables, car and more.

Cyber Crime is something that is of concern to many. In general terms advice includes ensuring that your computer has a firewall and encrypted server, passwords are never written down, only purchase items from reputable sites, don't respond to Emails from people you don't know and never send personal information, including bank details. Remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



THANK YOU...

During 2016 the Police and Trading Standards asked members of Neighbourhood Watch in North Somerset to assist with information about a rogue trader. There has now been an undertaking from this person that they will not cold call at properties displaying no cold calling type stickers or who are residing in No cold Calling Zones. This would not have been achieved without the assistance of the Neighbourhood Watch and both the police and trading standards would like to thank everyone who forwarded information.

NEED TO CONTACT THE POLICE – USE EITHER:

101

To report incidents that require non urgent police attention including reporting of crime, suspicious activity, intelligence.

999

Including emergencies which are life-threatening, in fear of safety, crime in progress, bogus callers.

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
Sandy Padgett House
Express Park, Bristol Road
Bridgwater TA6 4RR

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

Email: lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk