



**Avon and Somerset Police**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

# Exmoor Updates

October 2024

## School visit -St Dubricius Primary school

PCSO Linda attended St Dubricius Primary school and spoke to the Reception and pre school children about Road safety, which was followed by story time, The children also got the opportunity to look at the Police vehicle.

The children had a great time learning about how to keep safe and especially enjoyed seeing the blue flashing lights on the police car.



## Meet the Team



Neighbourhood  
Sergeant  
Hayden Smith  
267



PCSO  
Supervisor  
Katherine  
Williams  
8460



Beat Manager  
PC James  
Calloway  
1200



PCSO  
Linda Moden  
8861



PCSO  
Michelle  
Haines  
8913



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## Crime Updates

In the surrounding beat areas in Minehead we had some thefts from work vans, where tools were taken. 2 persons were stopped and many tools recovered.

Please be vigilant by not keeping tools in vans overnight if it can be helped.

This applies to garden sheds too keep items out of sight and appropriate locks.

In Porlock the Bowling community hall was broken into and some money taken from within. Causing damage to doors. We had a similar incident in Minehead on the same evening.

Please consider now the darker evenings are upon us motion lighting is extremely helpful for more remote locations which come on when motion triggers it this is often a deterrent for potential thieves. Where possible consider alarms and CCTV.

There are various scams going around I've included one of the latest ones regarding WhatsApp below. Please be careful clicking on links on emails and messages.



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## Our Priorities

### Properties/Target Hardening

Although Exmoor is a relatively low crime safe area, we will be concentrating on some of our isolated/vulnerable properties over the Autumn/Winter period. Following the successful Police Posts held in some of smaller villages during the summer, we will advertise dates where we will offer crime reduction advice and cycle registering

### Farm Contact Crime Prevention

PCSO's regularly visit and speak to farmers offering crime prevention Farm and Horse watch. As well as visits in the rural community, We attend the Cutcombe market once a month and offer crime prevention and advice.

### Drug, Drink Driving and Drug Dealing

If you are concerned about someone who may be drink/drug driving or dealing drugs in your community, you can report your concerns by ringing 101/999 (if urgent), via Crimestoppers online or by ringing 0800555111. You can remain anonymous and your information may save a life.

### Crime Statistics last 28 days

Violence against a person x 9

Theft x 3

Public Order x 5

Other x 3



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Two women have been arrested in connection with tool thefts in West Somerset.

We received a call from a man in Minehead at about 3.20am on Thursday 24 October that he had disturbed two people he believed were trying to break into a vehicle.

The two individuals fled the scene in a white car, but the witness was able to provide us with a description of the vehicle and a partial registration number.

Subsequent enquiries were carried out and we stopped a vehicle matching the description given on the A358 approaching Williton approximately 30 minutes after the initial call. When officers opened the boot of the car, they found a large number of power tools.

We believe the power tools belong to a number of victims across the West Somerset area in crimes committed overnight between Minehead and Bishops Lydeard on 23-24 October. We have recorded the serial numbers of the tools recovered and are attempting to reunite them with their rightful owners.

Two women inside the car, who are both in their 20s, were arrested. They have been released on bail while our enquiries continue.

Anyone who witnessed the thefts, or believes the tools may belong to them, is asked to contact us online or on 101 providing reference number 5224280222. Or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online.



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**Please take a few moments to read the important information below:**

## **FRAUD ALERT**

**People in Avon and Somerset have reported receiving fraudulent text messages, telling them to pay a fictitious parking fine.**

**This is an example of ‘phishing’ when cyber criminals use fake messages to lure people to click on links within a scam email or text message or give away sensitive information.**

**In this case, recipients are encouraged to click on a link to pay, which takes them to a website that looks convincingly like an official government page. They are then asked for their email address, vehicle registration and card details to make a payment, usually £20.**

**If you receive a text message like this, DON'T click on the link, as fraudsters can steal your personal and financial data to commit identity fraud and take your money. Even clicking the link and not entering any information could result in malware and computer viruses being downloaded onto your device.**

**Report by forwarding the phishing text to 7726. This enables your provider to investigate the origin of the text and act, if found to be malicious.**

**If you have been coerced into giving away money or information to dishonest people, report this to your bank immediately (call 159 to be automatically connected to their fraud service) and to police via Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.**

**By reporting you could protect many more people from being affected.**

**Thanks to everyone who has reported and brought this scam to our attention.**



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## Upcoming Events

### **Thursdays**

**Talking Café Fishers mead Community lounge** with PCSO Michelle 10:30am-11:30am Michelle will be there once a month

14/11/24

28/11/24

### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

at **Porlock Library** Neighbourhood surgery 10:30-11:30am with  
PCSO Linda

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

We will be visiting the villages of

**Brushford**- 12pm until 1pm Location-

**Brompton Regis**- 1:15pm until 2:15pm Location -

**Simonsbath** - 3pm until 4pm Location- Bovey Tearooms car park

Where we will be available to speak to offer crime prevention advice.

**All attendance is subject to commitments at the time.**



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## Farm and Horse Watch

If you have a farm or small holding and wish to find out more about Farm/Horse Watch contact us for free Registration.



We are planning on doing some Farm visits in the area continuing to offer crime prevention and advice and offer sign ups to Farm watch if not already registered.



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## Whats App Scam

### What does it look like?

Fraudsters will pretend to be a relative, friend or someone you care about. They may contact you via WhatsApp stating they have a new number due to an emergency and will ask you to send money. They will often claim that their phone has been lost or damaged, or that they are unable to access their bank account. The criminals behind these scams are preying on people's kindness and desire to help others who are in need. WhatsApp is more commonly used for this particular scam but fraudsters may use other methods of communication such as email, SMS, or via social media.

### What should you do?

- Call your relative/friend on the number you have saved for them.
- Avoid sending any money until you are satisfied that they are not a scammer.

### Where to report?

- If you have been a victim of this scam, you can report to Action Fraud either online ([www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)) or over the phone (0300 123 2040).
- If you have sent money as part of this scam, contact your bank to report the fraud.
- You can forward scam texts messages to 7726 and emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

Hi Mum. I've had a nightmare today and accidentally put my phone through the wash! This is my new number you can save.

12:32 PM

Ok. Which child is this?

12:34 PM

Have a guess?

12:34 PM

Becky?

12:34 PM

Yes 😊

12:35 PM

Mum, I really need your help with something. I have a bill of £1,350 that I really need to pay today, but just realised I can't use my online banking because the security checks are linked to my old number. If I give you the bank account details of where the money needs to go, can you send it for me, and I'll pay you back when I've sorted my online banking out? xxx

1:00 PM

Ok love. Send the details over and I will do it now xx

1:07 PM