



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

Issue 3
1/09/2023

South Hams Policing team Newsletter

Welcome to the South Hams Local Policing Newsletter, a quarterly overview of what we have been doing.

Contents

- Community information
- Partnership working
- Project Kracken
- Rural crime theme
- Fraud



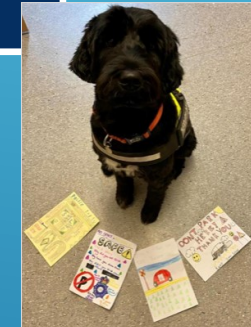
Officers from the Totnes Neighbourhood Team spent one morning in June helping out at the accessible community garden at Totnes Tennis club. The project has seen a collaboration between students at Lifeworks college, Parklife SW and Totnes Community Tennis Club. The garden is a peaceful place for everyone to enjoy with the aim that the garden is accessible for all. This project relies on the generosity of donations to be maintained alongside the army of volunteers.

Totnes Community information

Update on Stepping Stones food bank and TQ9 Community Food Club



Following reports raised about parking issues around Marldon Primary school Officers initiated a competition for the pupils to design posters encouraging parents to park safely and legally. Pictured is the school wellness dog.



At **Stepping Stones Totnes every week**

Monday	TQ9 Community Food Club	1:30 - 6pm
	10 items for £2.50	
Tuesday	Totnes Food Bank	10.00 - 2:30pm
	Vegan Soup	11.45 - 2-ish
	Relaxation & Anxiety Management	3.00 - 5pm
Wednesday - Closed & Weekends	Emergency food available in a box in the childrens corner of St Mary's Church or from the Mansion office.	
Thursday	Totnes Food Bank	10:00 - 2:30 pm
	Vegan Soup	11:45 - 2-ish
Friday	TQ9 Community Food Club	9:30 - 2.30pm
	10 items for £2.50	

You are welcome to pop in for a cuppa, and join us for crafting, mindful colouring, playing games, jigsaw puzzling and chatting any time we are open.

St Mary's Church Hall
From the High Street- down the cobbled alley to the left of the church, turn left again at the little iron gates.
Tel: 07988639514
contact@steppingstonesTotnes.co.uk



We have attended Totnes Show alongside our Rural affairs team. We had some great engagement about rural issues and other local complaints, some of which we have been able to take immediate action on and others we have built some more long term problem solving ideas.



PCSO Jason Vasey attended Homemeadow residential complex to discuss

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Cold Callers
- How to report incidents
- General crime prevention advice
- Herbert protocol

Dartmouth Community Information

A lot has happened since the beginning of June 2023. Dartmouth Neighbourhood Team have had the introduction of a new Sergeant, namely PS 18492 Neil POWERS and a new Officer, PC 17578 Andrew WILLETTS to support SC 75614 Rob SHORT who has been here for a number of years. The team will be complimented further in September with the arrival of a further Officer shortly followed by a new Police Community Support Officer. This will bring the team to full staffing levels. The impact of new arrivals has already been felt within the Community and the Officers have been given a fantastic welcome. We have hit the ground running with taking around 14 vehicles off the road due to various Road Traffic Offences, arrested outstanding Offenders and dealt with crimes which may not have been reported had we not been here.



On Saturday 15th July 2023 Dartmouth Neighbourhood Officers and colleagues from neighbouring areas supported the Britannia Royal Naval College Open day. This was the first such even to be held following the Pandemic and a large amount of planning went in to arranging stalls, inputs and assisting the security operation for the event. Around 3,500 people attended during the day and were impressed with not only the College itself, but the Police response to the event. One major talking point was the presence of one of the Force tractors 'Optimus Crime'. It was a great conversation starter and certainly went down well with the younger guests!

You said – we did..... The team were made aware of speeding issues along College Way, Dartmouth. We have therefore requested the presence of the Road Harm Reduction Unit and Speed Detection Unit to support us. Speeding operations have taken place on a number of occasions and this has definitely had an impact with reducing offences. The team are currently working with other local villages to plan speeding operations on key roads. We encourage contact from concerned residents to report problem locations so we can target our deployments.

Fraud – There has been a recent spate of fraudulent calls to members of the public in South Devon with a number of victims in Dartmouth. Full information can be found on the crime prevention page.

Be aware



Project Kracken



For anyone around the coast

- seeing boats moored up in strange or isolated places or at strange times
- boats unloading scared or suspicious people, or unloading packages
- people making attempts to signal or guide boats offshore
- people putting objects into waterways near bridges or marinas
- people loitering with no sense of purpose, and / or acting nervously
- people taking an interest in port security or buildings - maybe taking pictures or videos, or trying to gain access to restricted areas

Extra signs to spot if you work in the maritime industry

- nervous crew who show a lack of knowledge of maritime protocols
- boats showing signs of unusual modification or minor damage
- people making a large cash payment for maritime equipment
- people charting or hiring boating making unusual requests
- someone trying to gain access to restricted areas

Report it, let's sort it

Make a [report online](#) or call the [Coastal Crime Line](#) on **0800 011 3304** to report suspicious or unusual behaviour on the coastline or at sea.

You do not have to give your name when making a report. In an emergency, always call 999.



See Something, say something

Project Kracken is a joint law enforcement operation tackling maritime border crime. Project Kracken is designed to promote the reporting of incidents and suspicious behaviour along our coast lines.

In early July, Following a 999 call from a vigilant member of public, a report was made of suspicious behaviour where a group of males were getting off a boat and being rushed up the beach towards a carpark and into a car. The vehicle was located by Police and the males were arrested. This incident was a fantastic example of how we rely on the public to report suspicious activity and also how we work closely with other agencies. On this particular occasion we worked with Coastguard, Immigration, border force and the National Crime agency. Although this incident involved positive Police action, agencies also considered elements such as human trafficking and any vulnerabilities associated with this type of incident.

Kingsbridge Community Information

Local officers supported by colleagues from other neighbourhood teams, specials, and the professional development unit policed the Kingsbridge fair week which, despite the poor weather towards the end, was a great success. One arrest was made on the evening of the first day and an investigation continues into reported offences.



On 1st August, PCC Alison Hernandez visited Kingsbridge Police station along with guests from the media and the town council to promote the forthcoming opening of our front office. We hope to be open towards the end of the year.



OP Flowton- Salcombe



NPT and specials policed a number of events as part of the Salcombe regatta, including a "show and tell" where families were able to quiz us on role and explore our kit.



Op Flowton is the Summer Policing Plan in place for Salcombe. This will involve High-vis patrols, policing the PSPO areas, preventing and detecting crime and dealing with Anti Social Behaviour. The primary goal is to prevent problems and resolve others quickly and effectively to prevent escalation.



Crime prevention and helpful information

Information taken from the
Take five website

Warning issued over scam caller pretending to be police officer

Police investigating reports of a phone scam, which has led to one person aged in their 80s handing over substantial sums of money, are appealing for information.

Officers are also warning residents in Devon to be vigilant of the scam, in which the caller is pretending to be a police officer.

Detectives say they have had an increased number of calls about this scam over the past few weeks - particularly in the South Devon area.

In one case, the victim was persuaded to hand over more than £25,000.

It has been reported that the male caller pretends to be a police officer from a force in London. He tells the victim they have someone in custody who has cloned bank cards belonging to them. The bogus officer then requests that the elderly person transfers money to the police until the suspect is dealt with and they will then be reimbursed.

Detective Inspector Daniel Parkinson said: "We are advising anyone who receives such a call not to give any personal information and hang up straight away.

"We will never contact people to ask that they transfer money from an account to aid an investigation or request banking information.

"If anyone does this get this type of request, it is a scam."

He added: "Fraudsters often target geographical areas where they know elderly or vulnerable people live, so we are asking that if you have family or friends who are vulnerable in any way, that you make them aware of this warning."

If you have any information that could help the police with their enquiries, or know someone who has received a call of this nature, contact police via our website [here](#) or by calling 101 quoting reference number 50230192850.

Alternatively, independent charity Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously online at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or by calling freephone 0800 555111.

Police advice on receiving a scam call of this nature is to terminate the call, wait five minutes and ensure you can hear a dial tone before calling 101. Then call your bank using the number found on the back of your card.

All reports of this nature also need to be reported to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040 or online <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>



www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

Take five is a national campaign offering straight forward, impartial advice that helps prevent email, phone based and online fraud- particularly where criminals impersonate trusted organisations.

TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.

STOP

Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE

Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

YOUR BANK OR THE POLICE WILL NEVER:

- Ask you for your One-Time Passcode (OTP), PIN or full banking password, including tapping them into your phone.
- Ask you to transfer money to a 'safe account' for fraud reasons, even if they say it is in your name.
- Call you to ask to verify your personal details or PIN by phone.
- Send a courier to collect cash, PIN, cards or cheque books, even if they say you have been a victim of fraud or a scam.
- Contact you to participate in an investigation in which you need to withdraw money from your bank or to purchase high-value goods for safe-keeping.

Ivybridge Community Information

Following concerns raised by the local community, Ivybridge Neighbourhood team have carried out a Misuse of Drugs Act Warrant. This warrant was linked to alleged steroid and Class A drug supply associated with public Gyms. Ivybridge Neighbourhood team will continue to work with the community and take positive action when needed to tackle drug supply. Drug use and supply has a negative impact on the local community and can encourage criminality. We rely on the community to help us build intelligence to tackle this issue. You can report direct to Police via the Devon and Cornwall Police website on the "Tell us about" page <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/> or anonymously through Crime Stoppers. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

**SAY NO
TO
DRUGS**



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.



Ivybridge Neighbourhood Team remain engaged with the local Council and other local Partners regarding community reports about Anti social behaviour. The local team remain committed to tackling local issues and will react to any reports made about ASB. Again we rely upon the Community to highlight issues to us so we can target the problem. Proactive and disruptive patrols will remain in place.

Report ASB to Police and the local ASB Officer at South Hams District Council. You can also report Criminal ASB to CrimeStoppers

You can report ASB, if relevant, to housing associations.

What can be done about ASB?

- Police may implement a section 35 dispersal notice on area
- South Hams district Council can issue Warning letters about ASB through the ASB escalation process
- A person could be issued a community protection warning escalating to a community protection notice is necessary
- A Criminal behaviour order can be applied for and imposed on a person who is impacting the community
- Support provided by local Policing teams and other partner agencies
- Prevention intervention with youth services and drug and alcohol services

What is changing?

Why are we changing?

What do we need from you?

Please visit www.devon-cornwall.police.uk.
The **blue boxes** on the home page are links
to the public reporting forms



What is changing?

We have recently updated and improved our website – which includes a selection of online forms for making non-urgent and non-emergency reports

To help us in improving our service we will be asking everyone – public and partners – to **report via our website forms**, rather than via emailing the old 101 email address.

To support the exclusive use of web forms, we aim to remove the facility to be able to send emails to 101 on **17 April**

Why are we changing?

With emails, we often need to engage in a lengthy back and forth with the person making the report as there may be vital details missing which we need to be able to respond appropriately

This email conversation can take significant time, which unfortunately, then impacts on our ability to deal with other reports in a timely way

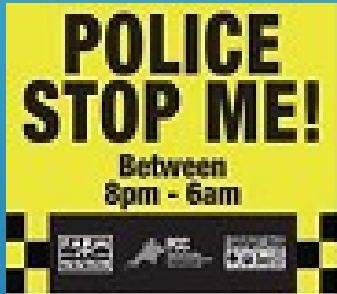
Our web forms are structured with “prompts” to ensure we have all the information we need, right from the first time someone gets in touch which means we can respond more quickly and effectively

NO LONGER IN USE

~~101@dc.police.uk~~

~~101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk~~

Rural Community Engagement



You can request a "POLICE STOP ME" sticker from us to place on your Farming vehicles and machinery. This will indicate to Police patrols that the vehicle needs to be "stop checked" during night time hours so if they see it, they will stop it. This aims to help combat agricultural vehicle theft.

Crime prevention advice for agricultural vehicles

- Remove keys from vehicles when not in use and keep them safe (Keep keys away from windows and doors in the house).
- If possible keep vehicle/machinery in a lockable garage/shed or building and out of public view.
- Remove GPS systems when not in use and PIN enable StarFire Systems.
- Record accurately your vehicle and machinery VIN, engine, chassis numbers.
- Photograph your equipment and vehicles.
- Register your equipment with the free national property register -Immobilise <https://www.immobilise.com/> and TER (The Equipment Register)
- Join Farm Watch and other local social media/community groups to keep in touch with what's going on.
- Join the Farm No Cold Caller Scheme
- Lock gates to yards, barn/shed doors where vehicles can be stored making access and removal of Vehicles and equipment harder for criminals
- Install CCTV and signage on area's covering vehicles
- Property marking including CASAR (data tag) and DNA/Forensic markers such as SelectaMark, SmartWater, TecTracer- and again signage that you are using property marking/tagging technology
- Report suspicious persons/vehicles to Police using 999 if ongoing or 101 if non urgent.

Who can help?

Farming Community Network (FCN)

The FCN provides help and support for the farming community. The FCN have a network of over 400 volunteers across England and Wales, many of whom are involved in farming, or have close links with agriculture, and therefore have great understanding of the issues farm workers and farming families regularly face.

More information can be found at www.fcn.org.uk Office
Phone: 01788 510866
Helpline: **03000 111 999**(7am to 11pm) -chris@fcn.org.uk