

Meet your local policing team



Insp Paul Laity



PC Sara Millett



PC Tash Wigfield



PCSO Andrew
Ferguson



PCSO Elaine
Chadwick

Message from Paul Laity, local Sector Inspector for the Devonport & West Neighbourhood team

In this winter edition of our quarterly newsletter, we will be sharing a wealth of top tips, information and community news. Keep informed about how you can stay safe during the colder months, find out updates on local issues and priorities, as well as essential crime prevention advice.

We're proud to serve our local community, working hard to keep you safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you see us out and about, please come and say hello - we'd love to meet you.

And finally, please remember that if you need us but you're not in immediate danger or a crime isn't taking place, you can get in touch via our website:

www.dc.police.uk - it's a quick and simple way to log a report and get advice online.

In this edition:

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- Find out what's happening near you: sign up to local alerts
- Be winter wise: driving in colder conditions
- How to keep your gifts for YOU
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Meet your local team

To connect with our community throughout the year, we attend various events and organise local meetings. It is a great opportunity to meet us and learn more about what we are doing - you can also raise any issues or concerns with us directly. If you're able to come along, it would be great to meet you. Dates below:

The Barn – Wellbeing Cafe Wednesdays 10am onwards 10/01/24, 07/02/24, 06/03/24

St Budeaux Library – Regular drop-in sessions 1pm – 2pm 18/01/24, 22/02/24, 21/03/24

Check the St Budeaux page on www.dc.police.uk for further information.





Visiting your local police enquiry office:

Villages, towns and cities have seen a growing number of police enquiry offices, also known as public enquiry offices (PEOs) opening up across Devon & Cornwall. There are 18 currently up and running.

Your Local Devonport Police Enquiry Office is NOW open Mon-Sat 10am to 3pm

PEOs are open for members of the public to report crimes in person or simply ask for help. They also offer a chance to meet officers face-to-face and speak to trained staff who can help with crime reporting, crime prevention advice and accessing victim services.

More police enquiry offices in Okehampton, Kingsbridge, Ilfracombe and Honiton are scheduled to open before March 2024. The total number of PEOs will reach 27 by 2025. To find your closest police enquiry office, visit the Devon & Cornwall website www.dc.police.uk and type 'police enquiry office' into the search bar.

Local updates:

- Reports of anti-social behaviour from youths in the St Budeaux Square area have been dealt with using a partnership approach, utilising the Child Centred Policing team and Plymouth City Council to support and prosecute offenders.
- The team have regularly visited The Barn to engage with service users there. We have also attended primary schools in the area to engage with the students and support the staff.
- Devonport Police Station now has a front office open to the public! The office is staffed Monday to Saturday between 10am and 3pm.
- What Concerns You? Scan The QR code and let us know.



Find out what's happening near you: sign up to local alerts

Sign up to our two-way messaging system to find out what's happening in your area. Receive alerts concerning crime, antisocial behaviour, witness appeals and crime prevention. You can also respond directly to alerts if you have any information and be the first to know about community events and good news stories in your area.

By working together, we can keep our communities safe. **Sign up here: alerts.dc.police.uk**

Winter wise: be safe when driving in colder conditions

Now the colder weather is upon us, it is important to understand how the weather will affect the road and your car. As a reminder, we've put together a checklist of things you should be aware of when driving in icy conditions.

- If the weather is bad, first ask yourself 'do I need to travel today, or can I avoid it?'
- Clean all ice from your car before setting off so you have clear visibility. Don't forget to check your headlights and taillights.
- It is harder for tyres to grip the road when it is icy or wet, which means braking distances are much longer than when driving on dry roads. Make sure you keep well back from the vehicle in front of you to give enough space.
- The more worn your tyres are, the less grip they'll have on the road, so make sure to check your tyre tread - it should be at least 1.6mm.

One way to do this is by placing a 20p coin into the main grooves of your tyre. If you can see the outer band of the coin, then your tyres may be too shallow and possibly below the legal limit. If this is the case, they will need to be replaced as soon as possible.

For more information about car safety checks, visit www.rac.co.uk.

For more advice about driving in wet or icy conditions, please visit www.highwaycode.co.uk.



Three ways to keep your gifts for YOU

Have you received some nice gifts this festive season? Follow our three-step guide to help **us** help **you** keep them safe.

- Don't advertise your new goods – make sure to dispose of your packaging carefully so it is not on display to people outside.
- Make sure to keep your valuables away from windows so that they are hidden from passers-by. If it's unavoidable, simply close your blinds or curtains.
- Register your high value gifts online. That way, if they are lost or stolen, it allows the police to identify the rightful owner:
 - Electronics - log the item(s) serial number online with the 'UK National Property Register'.
 - Bikes – add your bike details to the 'National Police-Approved database'.
 - For more information on how to mark your property, visit: www.securedbydesign.com



Be scam savvy:

According to Ofcom, approximately nine in ten adults in the UK have come across online content they suspect to be a scam or fraud. 46% of these people fall victim to the scam. Don't be a part of this number – discover how you can be online savvy and spot a scam by visiting **Action Fraud** www.actionfraud.police.uk



Protect your social media accounts:

Data from August 2022 – July 2023 reveals there were 18,011 reports of social media and email hacking, with 4,092 victims reported having been extorted for money or having their accounts used to commit fraud against the wider public (Action Fraud).

To prevent this happening to you, there are some simple steps you can take:

- 1) Use different passwords across your social media and email accounts. Make sure they are strong by combining words and characters. A useful approach is to choose three random words that are easy to remember but hard for someone to hack.
- 2) Turn on 2-step verification (2SV) when you log in for both your social media and email. When you log in on a new device or change settings on your account, 2SV will send a prompt asking you to provide more information to verify your identity. It may do this by sending a code to your phone for example - this makes it difficult for hackers to gain access to your account.


Following these steps are a great start to protecting your online accounts. For more information and advice, please visit Action Fraud. If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it to www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Getting in touch







We're always here if you need us – but if it's not an emergency (i.e. a crime isn't happening right now and no-one is in immediate danger) then reporting online will save you time and means we have all the information we need to respond appropriately.

Scan the QR code below to take you to our website home page and choose one of the blue boxes to find the form that's right for you.

 Non Emergency dc.police.uk If a crime has already happened or to give information about the crime		WebChat To get updates visit dc.police.uk and click on the Webchat widget
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 999 Emergency	When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required
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Contact details for Deaf or hard of hearing / speech impaired

 999 BSL (video relay for BSL users)	 Text 999 (You must register for this service at www.emergencysms.org.uk)	 18000 Minicom/ textphone
 Text 67101	Non-Emergency  SignLive (video relay for BSL users) for Non-Emergency	 18001 101

There are situations which look like they should be police matters, but which are actually dealt with by other agencies, such as noisy neighbours, dog fouling, fly tipping and more.

To avoid delays, always visit our website first to see if this is an issue which is more appropriately dealt with by another agency.



Scan me!

Keep up to date with what's happening in your area:

Facebook: Devonport and West Police Plymouth

X (Twitter): @DevonportPolice

Website: www.dc.police.uk and enter your postcode