

Your local Spring 2025 newsletter: Barnstaple

Meet your local police team



Meet the team at an event

We will be attending these events in the coming months:

Police surgery, The Windsor Arms, Pilton, Friday 21st March 2024 1230-1330

Police Surgery, Bratton Fleming Village store, Thursday 27th March 1400-1500

Further dates will be published on Neighbourhood alert and Barnstaple Police Facebook page once arranged.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Message from your local sector inspector

My name is Andy Wills and I am the local sector inspector for Barnstaple.

This edition of the Spring newsletter contains lots of seasonal safety tips and crime prevention advice, as well as updates on issues and priorities that are of concern to our local communities.

My colleagues and I work hard to keep you safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Remember, if you need us but you're not in immediate danger or a crime isn't taking place, please get in touch via our website www.dc.police.uk/ro/report/

Dog walkers urged to take care



Lambing season is underway and in March and April, we are supporting Op Recall - a national operation to raise awareness of the impact of livestock worrying and prevent livestock attacks.

A report from the National Farmers' Union last year confirmed that dog attacks on livestock in the UK were estimated to cost £2.4 million.

Local police teams will be working in communities this Spring to provide advice on how to reduce livestock attacks.

Remember: If you're walking your dog in an open space, make sure it is under control at all times. If around livestock, make sure it is on a lead.

Livestock worrying is a crime and you can be prosecuted, receiving up to six months in prison and/or a £1,000 fine.

If you witness an attack on livestock, please do not intervene; keep yourself safe and call 999.

Rogue traders: what you need to know

Now the warmer weather is approaching, you may consider making improvements to your house and garden.

Be cautious of rogue traders who may knock on your door and offer to do work to your home or garden. Things to look out for include:

- Being offered a very cheap price, too good to be true
- Being rushed into making a decision

Remember to ask for identification and understand the terms and conditions of the work.

If you notice anything suspicious, report your concerns to 101 or call 999 if you feel you are in danger.

We're recruiting Police Community Support Officers!

PCSOs play a vital role in policing. No two days are ever the same. If you're over 18, have great communication skills and want to make a difference in your community, this could be the role for you.

Visit the recruitment page on the [Devon & Cornwall Police website](#) – applications close on 25 April 2025.



Keeping your garden crime free

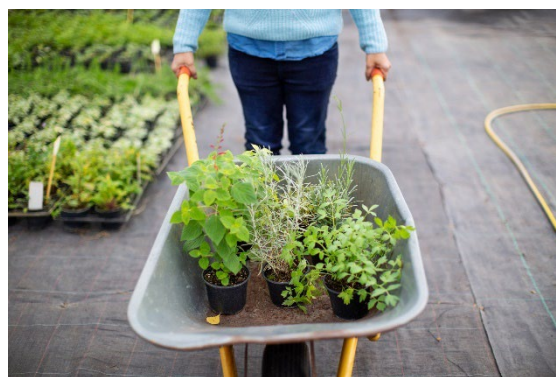
Now Spring is here, many of us are looking forward to spending more time in our gardens. Now is a good time to think about shed security and how you can keep your belongings safe.

Protecting your garden and outbuildings keeps your valuables hidden. Here are some tips to consider:

- 1) Keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low so burglars have nowhere to hide.
- 2) Lock side gates at all times
- 3) Consider spiky, defensive planting and keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high
- 4) Gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected, due to the noise caused when someone walks on them.

- 5) Install an outside security light so intruders cannot approach without being seen and consider fitting a burglar alarm system.

For more information on how you can keep your home safe, please visit the Devon & Cornwall Police website and search 'protecting your home from crime'.



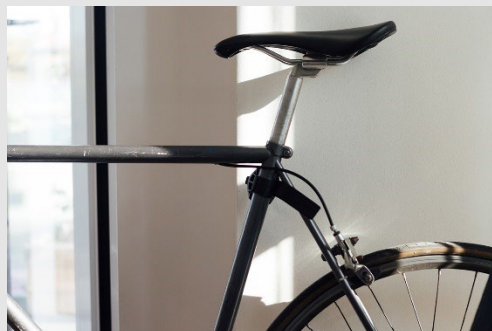
Sign up to Devon and Cornwall Alert

Sign up to Devon and Cornwall Alert, our two-way community messaging system to find out what's happening in your area. You can choose the type of information you would like to receive about crime, antisocial behaviour, witness appeals, crime prevention and good news. Just search for [Devon & Cornwall Alert online](#).



Electric bikes: don't get a shock, know the rules

We realise that the increasing popularity of e-bikes has led to more people riding on pavements and roads. We know this has caused significant public nuisance. If you have an e-bike, it's important you are aware of the rules to keep yourself and others safe.



According to current Government legislation, e-bikes can be used on public roads without a licence or insurance provided that:

- They are pedal assisted, bikes are fitted with pedals that are capable of propelling the bike.
- Maximum continuous rated power of the electric motor does not exceed 250 watts.
- Electrical assistance must cut off when the vehicle reaches 15.5 mph (25 kph).
- The rider is not under 14 years of age.

If your bike does not fit these guidelines, you can only ride your e-bike on a road if it is registered, taxed and you have a valid driving licence. You must also wear a motorcycle helmet and insure your vehicle. For more information, visit [GOV.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).



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What's been happening in your area?

During the month of February 2025, officers in the Barnstaple catchment area responded to 502 logs.

This number is down 1.6% from 2024 and includes:

- 74 Concern for Welfare
- 46 Domestic
- 26 Missing Persons
- 48 Reports of Violence
- 1 Animal/Wildlife Reports
- 9 Criminal Damage
- 64 ASB
- 19 Highway disruptions/Road Offences (Not including speeding or RTC)
- 22 RTC
- 4 Sudden Deaths

112 People were arrested during this time and detained at Barnstaple Police Station Custody Centre.

A large proportion of police incidents are not crime related. Of those which were, some investigations can be progressed through out of court disposals such as Community Resolution, Individuals being reported, or by voluntary interview.

As well as responding to the 502 logs, officers also worked on file building for court, taking witness and victim statements, foot and vehicle patrols, booking in evidence, surveillance, executing warrants, attending court, attending training courses and inputting intelligence onto the system.



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