

Meet your local policing team



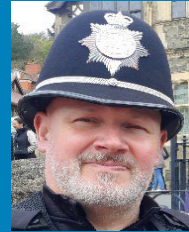
Insp Richard
Preston



Sgt Robert
Brown



PC Steve
Theobald



PC Scott
ELLIOTT



PCSO Paul
WHITEHOUSE

Welcome!

My name is Inspector Preston and I am the local sector inspector for North Devon .

We will be bringing you a quarterly newsletter full of safety tips and crime prevention advice, as well as updates on issues and priorities that are of concern to local communities.

In this Spring edition, we have included useful information about how to stay safe while enjoying our beautiful region over the coming months.

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/

If you see us out and about, please come and say hello.

We'd love to meet you!

In this edition:

1. Top tips to keep your garden secure
2. Holiday travel advice in Devon and Cornwall
3. Girlguiding Police Challenge Badge
4. Property marking information
5. Considering livestock when dog walking
6. Have you signed up to Devon & Cornwall Alert?
7. Update on our local priorities

Keeping your garden secure

As the clocks change and the weather hopefully warms up, 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 not only keeps your valuables safe but can also stop burglars accessing tools to get break into your home.



Prevention

- 1) Keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) 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 (over 1.8 metres).
- 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 our website: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/

Meet your local team

We will be attending these events in the coming months:

Pop Up Police Station – South Molton Pannier Market 02nd March 2024 – 0900 - 1300

Drop in session – 4th March 2024 – Chulmleigh Town Hall 1000 - 1200

Pop Up Police Station – South Molton Pannier Market 21st March 2024 0900 - 1300

Drop in session – 4th April 2024 – Chulmleigh Town Hall 1000 – 1200

We look forward to seeing you there.



Spring travel advice

The upcoming Easter holidays, May half term, and two Bank Holiday weekends will bring extra visitors to Devon & Cornwall. This means there may be extra traffic on the roads and potential hold ups across our beautiful counties. The force will be doing its best to police Bank Holiday hotspots and make sure motorists have a smooth journey on their way to the beaches.



Top tips to help with your drive include:

- Checking over your vehicle (e.g. checking tyre pressures and making sure you have enough fuel, oil and water).
- Choosing quieter times on the roads if possible and checking forecasts so you are aware of adverse weather which may hamper your journey.
- Be prepared in case you do break down – have refreshments and appropriate clothing in your vehicle and keep your mobile phone charged.
- Never leave children or dogs in a vehicle in warm weather. Even if you're only gone for a couple of minutes and leave a window open, the rising temperature within a vehicle can lead to serious, or fatal consequences.
- Be patient and considerate to other drivers, and remember it is always best to allow extra time.
- If you are towing a caravan please make sure you know the rules...

<https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/safety/how-to-tow-a-caravan>

Devon & Cornwall Alert

Have you signed up to Devon & Cornwall Alert yet? The two-way messaging system has more than 37,000 subscribers and is a useful way to keep up to date with what is going on in your area.

You can choose to receive text or email updates relevant to your location or type of business. You can also choose the type of information you would like to receive, which can include; witness appeals, anti-social behaviour, community events and good news stories. If you would like to sign up, please visit:

<https://alerts.dc.police.uk/#SignUp>.

Devon and Cornwall **ALERT**



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

Girlguiding Police Challenge Badge

Did you know Devon & Cornwall Police now offer a Girlguiding Police Challenge Badge? The challenge badge aims to teach Brownies and Rainbows what the police do nationally, and in their communities, and provides information about careers in the police and personal safety.



If you would like to find out more about the pack, please visit:

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/police-forces/devon-cornwall-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/girlguiding-police-challenge-badge/>.

Property marking

With the weather brightening up and more opportunities for you to use bikes and other high value equipment, consider marking your property and recording your items on



<https://www.immobilise.com/>. Remember, you can mark electrical items, bikes, and items such as antiques. If you'd like help marking your property, please contact your local station.

Considering livestock when dog walking

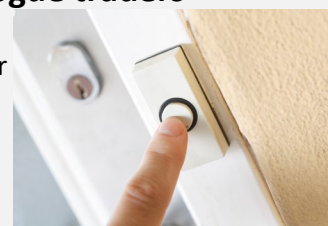
When walking through our beautiful countryside with your dog, please be cautious of livestock, especially now that lambing season is underway. Make sure your dog is on a lead at all times.



Livestock worrying is a crime and can cause devastating consequences for livestock and farmers. If you witness a dog acting out of control or attacking livestock, please phone 999 to report it.

Protect yourself from rogue traders

Now the warmer weather is approaching, you may consider 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
- 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 like you are in danger.



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 <small>If a crime has already happened or to give information about the crime</small>		WebChat <small>To get updates visit dc.police.uk and click on the Webchat widget</small>
 999 Emergency <small>When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required</small>		

Contact details for Deaf or hard of hearing / speech impaired

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

There are situations which seem 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.



Local issues

You told us that the priorities in your area are:

- *Drug use and Anti-social behaviour*
- *Fear and unease because of crime and Antisocial behaviour*

Since our last Autumn newsletter, we have continued to conduct patrols in and around the local area. The team have seen a rise in vehicles being recovered due to unpaid tax and numerous driving offences including no insurance and drink/drug driving. By doing this we are actively targeting those that use their vehicles to commit crime, removing the ability to enter/leave our areas using their vehicles and penalising them with financial penalties.

We continue to engage with those in our towns that look to cause ASB and those who enter the area intent to do similar, we have as a result referred a number of those responsible to our Antisocial behaviour team who should they continue to cause ASB would be subject to further interventions which will be discussed with our partner agencies.

In more positive news, in December 2023 we received 300 Bike marking kits along with some other material from "SelectAmark." The funding was received through the Proceeds of Crime Act Community Grant and was off the back of an application from the South Molton Volunteer Bureau. This allowed us to attend the South Molton Gets Together Community event to mark the bikes of those attending. Now that we have these kits which retail in the region of £13, we will look to bring these to various community events to continue to provide crime prevention advice and hopefully reduce the risk of theft of bikes. The feedback from those who have had their bikes marked is that they are impressed by the quality of the kits and the advice that has been given.

For further information reference bike marking please get in touch or find us at one of the events listed within this newsletter.

Finally, consider signing up to DC ALERT, it's a fantastic messaging system that allows two way communication between ourselves and those signing up where we can share requests for information, good news and events. Further information can be found on the dedicated website with instructions how to join.

Spring is now upon us and with the warmer weather we shall continue to Police this beautiful slice of Devon and support our communities as they grow.

Sgt Brown

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

Facebook: South Molton Police & Lynton Police

Twitter: @Smoltonpolice @LyntonPolice

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

D&C Alert: Sign up at alerts.dc.police.uk to hear instantly about the crimes happening in your area.



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE