



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

July 2024

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of July 2024. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved in the previous month. June 2024 turned out to be another busy one...

June 6th—80th anniversary of D-Day

On Thursday 6th June 2024 we assisted with the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. **Superintendent Lisa Simpson** (pictured below left) who is the Somerset Area Commander, attended a special remembrance service at the Normandy Stone in Vivary Park.

Following this event, the team assisted with the memorial event at Maidenbrook Country Park. A fantastic event that was well run with lots to do for all the community. A truly special event. **PCSOs Imran King & Brian Lee** (pictured below right) joining in with the remembrance event.



Theft from Motor vehicle crime series

At the end of May and into the first few weeks of June, we received multiple reports of theft from motor vehicle. All of these incidents took place in the late hours/early morning of the night and unfortunately the majority of these incidents involved the vehicle being left insecure overnight, with the offenders only having to try the door handle to gain access to the vehicle. A reminder please to always ensure that your vehicles are left free of valuables and left locked when unattended. However, we are pleased to say that following our enquiries and good quality CCTV capturing the incidents, we have arrested 3 individual male offenders for multiple theft from motor vehicles. All have been charged with the offences.

Male further arrested following a drugs warrant in January

Back in January of this year we conducted a misuse of drugs warrants at two properties in Taunton. The first being a commercial property and the other at a residential property. These warrants were successful with illegal substances being found. However since January, we continued to receive information that suspected illegal activity was taking place, and following new evidence the

MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PC Georgina Trick

POLICING AREA

Taunton West

YEARS SERVICE

7

HOBBY

Lying on a beach

FAVOURITE FOOD

Surf n Turf

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PC Georgina Trick...

Before joining the police I was an estate agent. I had always wanted to be a police officer so when the applications came out I applied and was very lucky to be successful. I came into policing to do the cliché thing of wanting to help people and be a first responder to a variety of incidents. Throughout my career I have developed my skills and policing experiences by doing different courses and most recently attended my Tactical Medics course which allowed me to gain life saving first aid skills to assist with our major events and daily policing.

I am also registered on the NHS Bank as a Health Care Assistant and work between different wards (my favourite being Childrens and Maternity) supporting people in a slightly different role!

As a police officer I like to engage with everyone in the communities and show them a different side to policing, and to help build trust within our communities and allow that long term engagement to solve longer term issues and concerns in the local community. It is also allowing that regular contact between police and communities with consistency. I have also just had the pleasure of working at Glastonbury festival.

Outside of work I love to go on holidays and explore the world and different cultures and cuisines.

male was further arrested on the 13th June. The male involved in these incidents was charged and remanded to prison and is awaiting a court date.

Property Closure granted by the Courts

After conducting a misuse of drugs warrant at a location in the North Taunton area back in March of this year, we continued to receive reports of anti-social behaviour coming from the address. Following multiple reports of ASB and disorder, we worked with our ASB team and applied to the courts for a closure on the property. The courts granted the closure which effectively means the property has to be properly secured and no one is allowed to live in the property for a minimum of 3 months. **PC Lydia Shipton** pictured with the property following its closure.



Man arrested and charged with seven burglary offences

On Sunday afternoon we arrested a 22 year old from Taunton for burglary and theft from motor vehicle offences. Gareth Louis, of Duke Street, appeared before Taunton Magistrates' Court on Tuesday (25th June) after being charged with:

- Seven Counts of burglary
- Three counts of taking a vehicle without consent, and a further charge of aggravated taking without consent
- Three counts of theft from a motor vehicle
- One count of interfering with a motor vehicle
- One count of possessing a bladed article
- One count of criminal damage
- One count of driving while under the influence of alcohol
- Two counts of driving without insurance
- Two counts of driving without a licence.

The burglary offences happened in the Staplegrove and Taunton areas, and all the charges relate to incidents between Friday 17th May and Sunday 23rd June.

Louis' next appearance will be at Taunton Crown Court.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PCSOs Darren Cullum & Brian Lee enjoying an oversized Ice Cream in the Orchard Centre whilst on patrol at one of the town centre summer events. As you can imagine the team were somewhat unhappy when they both returned to the station without any ice creams for the rest of the team.

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Summer Holidays are approaching and many of us will be hoping for long hot summer days where we can enjoy being outside. It is also a good opportunity for children to continue learning and developing skills that will help them throughout their lives and help them feel part of the community.

Keeping children busy and active without spending a fortune can be a challenge. Keep an eye out for activities organised by community centres, clubs and charities by following them on social media and looking out for posters, many are free to local families.

Pictured is **PCSO Will Raisey** with North Taunton One Team Coordinator **Angela Bolitho**.



Happy Healthy Holidays directory has a list of activities available on the SASP website. Funded by Somerset County Council it enables local groups to provide holiday activities including food to children eligible for free school meals. Activities are available to book from 10am on 15th July 2024.

[Find activities | Healthy Happy Holidays Somerset \(hhhsomerset.co.uk\)](#)

The Highlight Youth Hub is run by Young Somerset every Saturday from 3pm until 5pm in McDonalds in East Street, Taunton and provides a weekly opportunity for children and young people to find out about activities, services and support available in the local area.



[Young Somerset](#) have lots of information on line.

Summer can mean your children have more unsupervised time. Talk to your children about how they can stay safe. Visit; www.somerset.gov.uk/town-centre-safety-and-young-people www.youngminds.org.uk

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEER

Kieran vile

POLICING AREA

Somerset West (Cheddar down to Porlock)

YEARS SERVICE

Will be 20 years on the 8th August 2024.

HOBBY

Watching Chelsea Play Football (Only when they win)

FAVOURITE FOOD

Spaghetti Bolognaise

I have been volunteering for Avon and Somerset Constabulary for coming up 20 years and was originally invited to come to the police station for a look around at the request of former Somerset West District Commander and Chief Superintendent John Snell, who wanted to see whether I would be interested in assisting local officers and find out what working for police involved.

I jumped at the chance to accept this opportunity and on August 8th, 2004, started my first volunteering role working in crime prevention alongside my then colleague PC Carolyn Scriven in her role as a Crime Prevention officer.

My role was to send out letters informing members of the public of the steps that they could take to prevent their homes from being burgled and also send out prevention packs containing general security advice about securing outbuildings and sheds to prevent them from being targeted.

In 2006 I became a member of the Taunton Town Centre Neighbourhood team under the guidance of Sgt Mike Griffiths. Part of my role in this team was a continuation of the work that I had started previously, but was expanded to include other crime categories including violence against the person offences and thefts from around the district. I would then make use of my analytical skills to present these in the form of spreadsheets and send them to the beat team to take proactive action.

In 2010 I became involved with work involving Anti-Social Behaviour in order to tackle the rise in ASB across our district. My role here involved sending out warnings known as letters 1 and 2 to parents informing them that their child had been involved in incidents of Anti-Social behaviour and the steps that would be taken by the police to address their actions should they continue. Later that year I assisted the Licensing Practitioner Officer, undertaking work regarding Temporary Event Notices where members of the public would apply to stage events and notify the police of their intention to do so. I would then check and log the details of the events, taking notice of the factors such as duration of the event along with the location and whether there were policing objections which meant that events could not take place.

In 2013 I returned to the Neighbourhood Policing Team under Sergeant Andy Murphy where I began working in partnership with PCSO support staff to identify crime trends and hotspots, where offences were high and made a note of these on a spreadsheet to enable the beat team to take the appropriate action and address the concerns of the local community in consultation with various partner agencies.

My current role started in 2015 as a Community Speedwatch Data Processor. Part of this role involves collating data to ensure that a warning letter is sent to drivers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit, to encourage them to change their behaviour behind the wheel. In addition to this I have also begun compiling a Spreadsheet highlighting drivers who repeatedly drive at excessive or dangerous speeds which is then handed to the local beat team for enforcement action.

I've really enjoyed all of my roles as it has enabled me to grow and feel a valued member of the team and would encourage anyone interested in volunteering to do so.

Roads Policing

Roads Policing Officers saw this vehicle travelling along the M5 with a bulge in the curtain which caused concerns. Officers pulled the vehicle over in Taunton Services and found that none of the contents were tied down or secure. The driver admitted he was cutting corners and was reported for an insecure load and the vehicle was prohibited until the driver fixed the issue.



This flat bed truck was stopped in Taunton carrying timber. Just prior to the vehicle being stopped, items had fallen off the vehicle as there was no straps or security of the load. Driver was reported for an insecure load.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH Activity during June

Over the month of June, 5 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 19 sessions that have taken place, 7,349 vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers.

From those, a total of 151 letters have been sent out to drivers that have not adhered to the speed limit.

The Community Speedwatch is a great service that greatly assists the Constabulary in reducing speed across the communities.

Should you wish to join an existing Speedwatch, or would like to set one up for your area, you can find more information here:

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



CRIME STATISTICS - May 2024

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	95
Bicycle Theft	12
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	28
Criminal Damage & Arson	68
Drugs	11
Other theft	39
Possession of weapons	11
Public Order	101
Robbery	9
Shoplifting	77
Theft from the person	5
Vehicle Crime	24
Violent Crime	357
Other Crime	14

You can access and find out more about crime statistics for a specific area by clicking either of these two links:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Avon and Somerset Constabulary | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

What I would like to reassure you all with regards to these statistics is that certain crime types are grouped together in one category. On our systems we can see far more detailed information, but for what we are allowed to share with the public, crime types are grouped together.

For example one of the categories above is '**Violent Crime**'. Domestic incidents fall within that category and Domestic incidents are one of the most common type of incidents we as the Police attend. If you would like to know the definition of what a Domestic relationship is, you can find it here:

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Hopefully this somewhat reassures you of why the number of crimes within that category are high.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Avon and Somerset Police are launching a new out of court resolution scheme known as Chance to Change aimed at improving outcomes for people in early adulthood. Out of court resolutions resolve crime without going to court. From 1st June 2024, a new scheme for 18–24 year olds will remove the barrier of having to admit guilt, which prevented people from certain backgrounds being given this option. Evidence shows this approach is also particularly effective at reducing reoffending for young adults.

The scheme recognises that people in early adulthood are still developing and sometimes make bad choices. Rather than prosecuting people at the start of their lives and them entering a cycle of offending, the scheme does exactly what it says – it offers people a chance to change, helping more young people to reach their potential and ultimately avoid a criminal record and go on to lead productive lives. It's better for victims who often don't want a young person prosecuted, rather that they learn from their mistakes. It also reduces work in the wider criminal justice system, which saves taxpayer money in the long run. The option for young adults arrested on suspicion of certain offences including common assault, criminal damage of less than £5000, and public order offences.

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30

Tuesday: 08:30—16:30

Wednesday: 08:30—16:30

Thursday: 08:30—16:30

Friday: 08:30—16:30

Saturday: CLOSED

Sunday: CLOSED



USEFUL LINKS

STREET SAFE

StreetSafe is an online tool that can be used by anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.

You might have felt unsafe in your local area due to anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

The information you provide will be considered alongside evidence already gathered by police forces and will be used to inform policing and local authority safety activities within your community.

Link to Website to report:

[StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

KEEP UP TO DATE



Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: [West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)

GET IN TOUCH

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report](#)

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

[SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk](#)

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111 or visit

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](#)

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