



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

December 2025

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of December 2025. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month. **We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas!**

Carnivals...Carnivals...Carnivals!

Throughout November, the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team supported a series of vibrant carnivals across Somerset. Our officers and PCSOs were on hand at events in Bridgwater, North Petherton, Burnham-on-Sea, Glastonbury, Wells, and Shepton Mallet.

Carnivals are fantastic community celebrations, but they also require significant policing resources. That's why we work closely with other towns to ensure everyone enjoys the festivities safely. Our role complements the efforts of the carnival marshals—maintaining public safety, providing reassurance, and being ready to step in if things don't go quite as planned (though hopefully not with the carts themselves!)

Below are some of the photos of Officers waiting with the public for Burnham's carnival to start...



Crime and Consequences lesson at local Scout Group

PCSO Supervisor Sam Bushen and PCSO Will Raisey recently visited a local Scout group to deliver an interactive session on Crime and Consequences, along with practical advice on staying safe in the community.

The Scouts learned what does—and doesn't—constitute a criminal offence, and had the chance to ask those burning questions they've always wondered about, whether it was something they'd "heard from a friend of a friend" or what it's really like to work for the police. To make the experience even more memorable, the Scouts tried on police body armour and got creative by choosing how we posed for the photos. It was a fantastic opportunity to build understanding, answer questions, and strengthen community ties.



MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PCSO Will Raisey

POLICING AREA

**Holway & Killams,
Halcon**

YEARS SERVICE

5 years

HOBBY

Getting tattoos

FAVOURITE FOOD

Roast Dinner

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PCSO Will Raisey

I joined the police because I enjoy the variety the role brings—every day is different, and no two days are the same.

I spent two years working in Neighbourhood Policing, followed by three years in the Early Intervention Team, where I supported children at risk of violence and exploitation. In that role, I worked alongside partner agencies to create problem-solving plans for areas experiencing high levels of anti-social behaviour and youth violence. This was an incredibly rewarding but challenging role, as these cases were complex. No two children could be treated the same.

After my time in Early Intervention Team, I returned to the Neighbourhood Policing Team, bringing with me the skills and experience I gained to make a positive impact in the community.

Before joining the police, I worked in care, which reflects my passion for helping people—a key reason I chose this career.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, walking my dog, and filling the rest of my time with exploring, gaming, and hitting the gym. I also love travelling, having visited places as far as New Zealand. My life motto is actually one I have tattooed from my favourite films; *The Lord of the Rings*:

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

Supporting Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday, 9th November, the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team, alongside officers from the Special Constabulary, proudly supported the Remembrance Sunday event. This annual occasion is a time for us all to pause, reflect, and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our future. We are always humbled to play a part in such a significant and meaningful day. It was great to see so many people in the town paying their respects, even though the bad weather was on the horizon!



Engaging Students on Drug Awareness

PC Lydia Shipton from the Neighbourhood Policing Team recently visited Richard Huish College during lunchtime to speak with students about the legal implications of drug use. The session included an interactive guessing game where students identified different substances and learned about their effects—both physical and mental—as well as the serious legal consequences. This was a fantastic opportunity to educate young people on the risks and help them make informed choices to stay safe.



Building Bridges with the Igbo Community

On Sunday, 30th November, PCSO Supervisor Sharon Baker, together with PCSOs Mike Bell and Tony Wearmouth, attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Igbo Community Group at St James Church. **What is an Igbo Community Group?** An Igbo community group is typically an organization or association formed by people of Igbo heritage (an ethnic group from southeastern Nigeria) who come together for cultural, social, and sometimes economic purposes.

This Igbo Community is a growing organisation representing individuals and families of Igbo heritage across Somerset. Their mission is to promote unity, celebrate cultural heritage, and foster positive engagement within the wider Somerset community. Our Neighbourhood team joined the event to share crime prevention advice, explain how to report incidents, and highlight support services available locally. It was also a great opportunity to strengthen trust and build relationships between the police and the community. A fantastic evening of collaboration and connection!



POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

For children there isn't a difference between online and offline life, it is all very real. Understanding technology and its changes can be really hard and it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online, who they are talking to and discussing the risks and the information they may access.

Talking with your child can help keep them safe online and it can be treated like any other area of their life such as school and friends. If it's part of your everyday conversation, they are more likely to speak to you if they are worried or have concerns. There is a lot of advice and guidance out there that can be trusted.

Some messages and posts on social media may be upsetting, distasteful or express an unpopular view but are not necessarily criminal. You should report abuse to the social media site administrators or if they relate to;

- A threat to a person's life, safety or property.
- Targeting specific individuals, including persistent harassment and ongoing abuse.
- A breach of court orders, including identifying people protected by law.
- Grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or false and of a malicious nature.

You can report direct to us:

Report online bullying and threatening messages | Avon and Somerset Police

If you are concerned that your child is being groomed or exploited you can report direct to us

[Report child sexual exploitation | Avon and Somerset Police.](#)

Here are some other sources of advice and support;

[Barnardo's](#)

Children's charity Barnardo's, supports children and families affected by issues such as sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.

[NSPCC](#)

The NSPCC provide a wide range of services for both children and adults, including national helplines for 24/7 help and advice.

[CEOP safety centre](#)

If someone has acted inappropriately online towards you, a child or young person, or someone you know, find out what to do and how to report it to police, by visiting the CEOP safety centre.

FRAUD AWARENESS

Online Shopping Fraud

Online shopping can save you time, effort and money. However, don't be caught out by convincing fake online shopping websites or fraudulent listings on buy and sell platforms. Avon and Somerset Police advise people to be extra cautious when considering purchasing items online.

- Don't be lured onto a fraudulent website by clicking on a link you have been sent in a text or email. You can report suspicious emails by forwarding them to report@phishing.gov.uk and suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726
- Ensure your email and online shopping accounts are protected with strong passwords and you don't use them anywhere else.
- Use the recommended payment method, or you may not be refunded for any losses to fraud. Pay securely and with payment protection (such as using a credit card).
- When paying either by online payment service or payment card, ensure that the link is secure, in two ways:
 1. There should be a padlock symbol in the browser window frame, which appears when you attempt to log in or register. Be sure that the padlock is not on the page itself ... this will probably indicate a fraudulent site. Please be aware that on some browsers the padlock is no longer used – check with your chosen browser.
 2. The web address should begin with 'https://'. The 's' stands for 'secure'. The above indicate only that the link between you and the website owner is secure, and not that the site itself is authentic. You need to do this by carefully checking the address for subtle misspellings, additional words and characters and other irregularities.
- Check credit card and bank statements carefully after shopping to ensure that the correct amount has been debited, and that no fraud has taken place because of the transaction.
- Avoid carrying out any financial transactions over unsecure connections, such as public wi-fi.
- Ensure you have effective and updated antivirus/antispyware software and firewall running before you go online.
- If you're unsure about a link to a website don't click on it. If the offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Do your research on a website and go with your instincts.

When using auction sites:

- Remember that it's easy to set up a fake profile.
- Stay on the website when communicating with the seller.
- Do your research on the seller to make sure they are genuine.
- Decline any requests to pay by bank transfer or virtual currency.
- Sending a PayPal payment through Friends & Family will deny you any payment protection which PayPal may otherwise provide.

You also need to be wary as a seller. Criminals sometimes pose as buyers on auction sites, sending fake emails as proof of payment transfer to the genuine seller. The payment fails to materialise, but the goods have already been sent. There have also been cases where criminals have turned up to the victim's home to collect an item and presented a fake banking app, showing that the funds have been sent. Always check your account online or ask your bank to make sure cleared funds have been received before sending or handing over any item. Fraudsters may also suggest sending a courier company to collect the item from you, as they are unable to pay in person. They will offer much more than the item is listed for, on the condition that you pay insurance for the safe delivery of the item. They will send you a link to make this payment, but once you have entered your card details, they'll disappear. If you are the victim of fraud, report it immediately to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre, by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk and your bank.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For those that don't know what 'Community Speedwatch' is, it is where volunteers from the local community carry out speed monitoring checks on specific roads across the community.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

The 14 CSW groups in the Taunton area operate in a variety of environments with different speed limits and traffic flows. The urban sites that they operate at have far higher traffic flows with typically 500 to 1400 vehicles per hour whereas the rural sites have approximately 50 to 200 vehicles an hour. However the rural sites have a higher proportion of speeders. Unfortunately the 20mph limits have a higher proportion of speeders whether they are an urban site or rural.

Activity during November

Over the month of November, 4 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 9 sessions that took place, 2,743 vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of 33 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 - October 2025

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	114
Bicycle Theft	11
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	44
Criminal Damage & Arson	64
Drugs	9
Other theft	57
Possession of weapons	4
Public Order	97
Robbery	7
Shoplifting	108
Theft from the person	1
Vehicle Crime	14
Violent Crime	392
Other Crime	22

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events where you can speak with a member of the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team.

- **Rural Crime Prevention — First Saturday of the Month 12pm-2pm Unicorn Saddlery in Hatch Beauchamp**
- **Priorswood Community Centre—8th January 2026 1000-1100hrs.**
- **Trull Community Centre—Saturday 3rd January 2026 1100—1200hrs.**

“To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”

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:

[SomersetWest-](#)

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

To report a crime anonymously, contact

Crimestoppers on
 0800 555 111 or visit

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

