



**Avon and Somerset Police**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

# Exmoor update

## NEWS IN YOUR AREA

February 2023

### Dulverton Library and neighbourhood surgery

PCSO Michelle has been to speak to the children at Dulverton Library and read them some stories it was lovely to see everyone during half term enjoying story time.



PCSO's Michelle and Linda have been visiting Farms offering security checks and visiting victims of crime.

We have signed up 7 farmers to Farm Watch this month so far, The Rural Affairs Unit have also been in the area assisting with Poaching patrols and Trailer marking.



### Upcoming Events

24<sup>th</sup> February Dulverton Talking café  
Fishers Mead 10:30am-11:30am With  
PCSO Michelle

7<sup>th</sup> March Timberscombe The Old Dairy  
10:30am-12pm with PCSO Linda

8<sup>th</sup> March Cutcombe Market  
With PCSO Michelle and Linda 11am-  
13:30pm

23<sup>rd</sup> March Talking Café Fishers Mead  
Community lounge 11am till 12:30pm.  
With PCSO Michelle

24<sup>th</sup> March Porlock Library 10:30am-  
11:30am With PCSO Linda

### Crime Statistics

Violence against a person x12  
Burglary x3  
Arson and Criminal damage x2  
Other x2  
Theft x3  
Vehicle offences x2  
Public order x4



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## Farmers Market

PCSO Michelle and Linda have been to Cutcombe Farmers Market with a crime prevention stand. Offering advice and offering sign up's to the Farm watch Scheme. It's a great opportunity to meet with the farmers, We will be looking at a future date for Trailer marking again with support from our rural affairs team.



## Bike Register

During the next few months as the weather improves, we will be looking at setting up some pop up Bike marking sessions. Keep an eye in the newsletter and Facebook for any dates set.



**JOIN OUR WATCH SCHEMES  
AND HELP US TACKLE CRIME**







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Lambing season is here please keep Dogs on leads especially around livestock.

We take reports of sheep worrying very seriously and ask you to call us in on 101 or 999 at the time to alert the police to this.



**Keep up to date**  

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

**Facebook:** Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing

**Twitter:** ASPWestSom

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)



## Priorities

### Drug Dealing

Are you aware of Drug dealing in your community? if so please contact the police on 101 and or report via Crimestoppers 0800555111

You can report to your local beat team via the facebook messenger system. Or online via the website.

### Drink Driving

We take drink driving very seriously. If you have concerns that someone you know may be drinking and driving, please report it at the time if possible or as general information giving the name/details of the driver and the registration/make of the vehicle. You can make the report via 101 (999 if ongoing), via an online report or by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Farm Contact Crime Prevention

Over the next few months PCSO's will be out visiting and speaking to farmers offering crime prevention Farm and Horse watch. As well as chatting about the rural community and how we can assist and keep in touch.

### Speeding

Speeding has been raised as concern by village communities. We are working with our colleagues in road safety and the SEU (speed enforcement unit) to address them. We are always keen to support those who may wish to start a speed watch's in their village.

### Poaching

We have had increased reports of Poaching deer in the area please report all sightings or information via 101 or 999 at the time.

## THE RED FLAGS OF FRAUD AND HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE

- Be wary of anyone asking for personal details over the phone, including your middle name, who you bank with, the name of your pet or even where you were born. They could be trying to guess your password/security info!
- Criminals may ask you download a remote access tool which gives them full control, however, make it sound like they are helping you 'fix' an issue.
- A genuine person or agency should never rush or panic you.
- Fraudsters often pose as trusted officials. Be wary of any unexpected calls from organisations such as HMRC or the police.
- The police or bank would never ever ask you to withdraw and hand over money to help with an investigation, or hand over your bank card(s).
- Be wary of people offering to complete work on your home. Rogue traders will over charge for poor quality work and often don't even complete it.
- If an online love interest asks for money or gift cards, they are a fraudster. Never receive/transfer money on their behalf either – this is money laundering.
- Be extremely cautious of anyone approaching you to make an investment – it's extremely likely to be a fraud.
- A person may contact you after you have been a victim of fraud, claiming they can get your money back (for a fee of course). This is known as "Recovery Fraud".

### TAKE 5 AND TELL 2

IN ANY SCENARIO WHERE YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE COMMUNICATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED, **TAKE 5** MINUTES AWAY FROM IT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF YOU, AND THEN **TELL 2** PEOPLE ABOUT IT. IT'S A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE, BUT IT COULD SAVE YOU A FORTUNE.

- ✓ Always make your own checks on who you are talking to. E.g., if the caller claims to be from the police, take their name and collar number, hang up and call 101 to confirm their identity.
- ✓ When you are making your own checks, ideally use a different phone to the one the person called you on, as scammers can hold the line open. If this isn't possible, hang up and wait at least 10 minutes before dialling out.
- ✓ Fraudsters can "spoof" phone numbers to make them appear to be calling from a specific country or company (e.g., your bank).
- ✓ Think about what is being asked of you. Why am I being asked to give this information? How do I know they are who they say they are?
- ✓ Tell a family member or friend if you have had a call or interaction that you are suspicious of.
- ✓ Challenge EVERYONE! If they are genuine, they will not mind you checking who they are. Have the confidence to say no and hang up.
- ✓ Never assume a text, email, or call is genuine. Trust your instincts - if something feels wrong or too good to be true, then it probably is.
- ✓ Remember, you cannot win something you have not entered.
- ✓ Try using three random words for your passwords. E.g., 'WaterPhilosophyZebra'.
- ✓ Ensure you have up to date antivirus protection. For more information, visit [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org).
- ✓ Two-factor authentication is important, particularly on your email.
- ✓ Never click on a link within an unexpected email or text.
- ✓ Enquire about a call blocker if you are getting frequent nuisance calls.

## Practical Advice for Victims and Families



### Telephone

If you are receiving a lot of unwanted calls, speak with your telephone provider. Most providers offer products and services to block unwanted calls, such as a call blocker. You can also reduce unwanted calls by registering with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS).

Telephone: 0800 398893  
Website: [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)



### Post

If you are having a problem with junk mail, it might help to register your name and address for free with the Mailing Preference Service (MPS). It has been set up by the marketing industry to help people who don't want to receive junk mail. However, it will not stop mail that originates from overseas.

Website: [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk)



### Financial Transactions

If you've supplied any bank account details, debit/credit card numbers, been asked for the 3-digit code on the back of the card or a PIN, you must contact your bank/credit card company immediately. You can also consider obtaining a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) for property and finance.

Website: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/lasting-power-of-attorney-forms](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/lasting-power-of-attorney-forms)



### Identity Fraud

Consider checking your credit report to see if your identity has been used. You can use a credit agency such as Experian or Equifax. If your identity has been compromised, CIFAS is a fraud prevention service used by financial companies and public authorities to share information about fraudulent activity. For a small fee, they will ensure that anyone applying for credit in your name is automatically double checked: [www.cifas.org.uk](http://www.cifas.org.uk)



### Online Advice

The internet has broken boundaries for fraudsters, enabling them to enhance their methods and reach out to potential victims worldwide. Ensure that you have different passwords for all of your accounts and use 2-factor authentication where possible. Using three random words creates a strong password. Ensure your computer virus protection is up to date. NEVER allow someone to remotely access your device as a result of an unexpected call. For more advice, visit: [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)



### The Little Book of Big Scams

This booklet is a general guide to many of the scams currently operating in the UK. It's an interesting read and gives handy tips to protect yourself from fraud. There is also an online version which can be accessed using the link below

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/32291114/little-book-of-big-scams.pdf>