

Axminster Division Report 12th December 2022

Another mixed bag of items this time for you to share with people in our local communities in the run up to Christmas; on which note, I wish the very best to you, your Families and friends for the forthcoming season of festivities, and where I'd like to thank you for your support in 2022 and I look forward to working with you all in 2023.

Winter is here

The cold and inclement weather that we have experienced in recent days is set to continue a bit longer and I'd urge caution when you are thinking of the need to travel.

Devon Highways have good supplies and have been out gritting major routes over recent days, but our more rural and even rural routes will not be treated, due to the sheer size and extent of our road networks.

It is a good idea to be well prepared for unexpected or unwelcome thing that might crop up and a really useful guide to preparing for winter travel, with some helpful tips, can be found at the AA web site, https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/seasonal/winter-checklist?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

If you have elderly or disabled neighbours, please check that they are alright, and offer to help if you can, with day to day chores that might not be practical for them in poor weather conditions.

For users of Twitter, you might want to subscribe to the DDC Highways @DevonAlert page for up to date information on travel in the County.

Shop safely this year, not just Christmas!

DCC is part of the Heart of the Southwest Trading Standards team, helping you to stay safe from scams, avoid dodgy deals and learn about your consumer rights. Look at the following sites so that you can offer advice or point people in the right direction of help, if they need it

- The National Cyber Security Centre has advice on how to shop safely online at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/shopping-online-securely>
- Buying online? Before you spend, check the website is genuine and not a scam using the 'check a website' tool at <https://www.getsafeonline.org/checkawebsite/>
- Learn how to shop safely, what to look out for and what to do if things go wrong in the Citizens Advice 'Stop before you shop' guide at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-work/our-campaigns/awareness-raising-campaigns/NCW/NCW-advice/>

- Read the Heart of the Southwest Trading Standards team consumer guides to learn more about your rights at <https://www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/consumer/consumer-advice-guides/>
- Stay up to date on product recalls so you can be sure the gifts you buy haven't been recalled for safety reasons at <https://www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/consumer/product-safety/product-safety-recalls/>

Cost of living support for Devon Businesses

Through the Heart of the South West Growth Hub, Devon CC are supporting local Devon businesses, helping them plan, adapt, and respond to their current challenges, as well as helping them find additional available support and business advice.

They've looked at the types of challenges that businesses are facing and have developed some new webpages to help, see

<https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/cost-of-living/> (See also this DCC

bulletin for other information

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/338a56e>

Our new Fostering Devon website is live!

Last week DCC were proud to launch a brand new fostering website, which showcases fostering to the wider public and also represents an improved resource bank for our current foster carers.

By creating this new bespoke website it's hoped to continue to inspire people to become foster carers and support those children currently in our service as best we can. It would be fantastic if you could take the time to look through our website and help to continue to spread the message of our team and fostering as a career. Please see <https://www.fosteringindevon.org.uk/> for further information.