



SEATON: NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING NEWSLETTER

Where?

Seaton Police Station, 76
Queen St, Seaton, EX12 2RJ

Please note: we are presently not a station open to members of the public without a prior appointment. Please find your nearest open Police Enquiry Office based in **Exeter**, open Monday to Saturday from 08:00 - 18:00.

*Devon & Cornwall Police, Exeter Police Station,
Sidmouth Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7RY*

Meet your local neighbourhood team:

INSPECTOR PHIL GRAY 15764

SERGEANT MATTHEW BEARDS
15294

PC CRAIG AMARILLI 17946

PC SAMUEL PARFETT 17950

PCSO MICHAEL MCGAULEY 30196

How to contact us:



999 Emergency

When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required



Called 999 by mistake?



Please help to reduce demand by staying on the line to tell us that everything is ok! If you hang up, our contact centre will spend time calling you back and may even send Police Officers out to you to ensure that you are not in need of help.

IF YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS (IN A NON-EMERGENCY):



If you are unsure where to look or who you should speak to, go to: dc.police.uk/askned
This is our non-emergency directory that combines some of our most frequently asked questions, alongside contact details for those who can assist. You can enter your question or keywords (e.g. 'parking pavement'), select an area, and AskNED will provide the most appropriate information for you.



E-mail us on 101@dc.police.uk to ask us any questions, tell us something, or to report non-emergency crime. Please allow a minimum of 72 hours for a response in times of high demand. Contact centre staff will respond as soon as possible.



For questions, advice and to receive updates on crimes that have already been reported, contact us using the **webchat** function on the Devon & Cornwall Police homepage at dc.police.uk/webchat to have a conversation with a staff member at our contact centre. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



To report a non-emergency crime that has already happened, go to dc.police.uk/crimereporting
Here you can record all the appropriate details on the online form that can be submitted on our website. The contact centre staff will then be able to provide you with a crime reference number in due course.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS (IN A NON-EMERGENCY):





For non-emergencies, give us a call on **101**. Contact Officers are there to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please be kind and respectful to our staff; rest assured we will answer your call as soon as we are able. There are often high volumes of incoming calls, so depending on the urgency of your enquiry with us, it may be worth considering some of the other contact options available, especially if you do have access to the internet, to allow the phone lines to be more accessible to those without internet access.

IF YOU ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, OR SPEECH IMPAIRED:

NON-EMERGENCY:

Devon and Cornwall Police use 'SignLive' to allow us to gain access to BSL interpreters. To use SignLive, download the app or visit their website. Select Devon and Cornwall Police from their list of organisations. A video conversation will then begin between a BSL interpreter and the BSL user. The interpreter will then contact the force directly and relay the message.

Contact using Minicom/Textphone: on **18001 101**

Contact using SMS/Text: on **67101**

EMERGENCY:

Contact using SMS/Text: on **999**

However you must register before you can use this service. You can register your mobile at any time by visiting the EmergencySMS website.

To register your mobile for EmergencySMS, you can either text the word 'register' to **80999** Or you can register online and access further information at <https://www.relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/contact-999-using-relay-uk.html>



Devon and Cornwall Alert

Is a **free** two-way community messaging system that helps us to connect with our communities. It tells you what is happening in your area and allows you to respond directly with any information. Messages can be sent either through recorded voice message, email or text message. You can register at alerts.dc.police.uk

You can choose what information you receive, e.g. crime, anti-social behaviour, witness appeals, missing person appeals, community events, local good news.


You can also choose when, how and who from:

- Specify what time of day messages will arrive
- By email, text or telephone
- Police, Action Fraud, Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch
- It is **free**: there is no cost, contract or obligation
- Covers Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Follow us on social media:

 Twitter: @EastDevonPolice / @DC_Police

 Instagram: @dc_police

 Facebook: Rural East Devon Police / Devon and Cornwall Police

 YouTube: DCPolice



If you would like a visit, advice, or a leaflet regarding any of the issues raised in this newsletter, please contact PSCO Michael MCGAULEY via email: 30196@dc.police.uk

CRIME STATS:

(October 2022: the latest month data is available for)

SEATON:

- Violence & sexual offences: 9
- Criminal damage & arson: 7
- Burglary: 5
- Vehicle crime: 5
- Public order: 3
- Anti-social behaviour: 2
- Shoplifting: 2
- Other theft: 1
- TOTAL: 34

Want to know more about what is happening in your area? Please visit **police.uk** for more.



If you would like to pass us on a good news story, involving a community event and/or a policing event, please reach out to us and let us know by emailing us on **101@dc.police.uk** or by using the 'local policing team contact' form on the Devon and Cornwall Police website. We would love to include your positive experiences in future newsletters for the town!



Victim Support: 0300 303 0554 (Mon - Fri 12pm-6pm)

Out of Hours Victim Support: 0808 1689 111

Victim Care Unit: 01392 475 900

Samaritans: 116 123

24h Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Out of Hours Noise Complaints EDDC: 01395 516 854

Devon Highways: 0345 155 1004

Citizens Advice: 0800 144 8848

Pinpoint: a directory of organisations and providers that is offered for information purposes to the public, maintained by Devon County Council and its partners.

Talkworks: a free, confidential NHS talking therapy service for people aged 18+ in Devon.

Headway: a local charity dedicated to improving life after brain injury, providing essential services for people with acquired brain injuries, their families and carers.

Get involved!

- Opportunities to join the local D&C Police Cadets Scheme can be found at **dc.police.uk/cadets**
- For recruitment and volunteering opportunities visit **dc.police.uk/recruitment** for more information

Policing Priorities & Aims: 2023

*Forcewide: as outlined by new Chief
Constable Will Kerr*

CONNECTIVITY: improving our access to and visibility within our communities. This will involve investing in Neighbourhood teams, making improvements in how the public can contact us and access our services.

LOOKING AFTER THE WORKFORCE: investing in officer and staff wellbeing, creating a supportive environment where delegation and innovation is encouraged. This will include investing in leadership skills.

GETTING OUR STANDARDS RIGHT: continuing to invest in and improve our investigative standards. This will also include tackling internal unacceptable behaviour. Respect and civility - both within the Force and outside it - are professional requirements and lie at the heart of the policing by consent model of British policing.

Policing Priorities & Aims: 2023

Forcewide: as outlined by the Police & Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez

TACKLING VIOLENCE:

we are aiming to break the cycles of violent crime, and support families and young people affected by violence. This will include actively tackling violence against women and girls, continuing to address the causes and consequences of domestic and sexual violence. Approaches will focus on prevention and early intervention, by supporting local authorities and partners to share accountability, data, and expertise.

TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

the Commissioner has pledged to:

- reclaim town centres for the general public from those undertaking ASB, and rebuild public confidence in the public realm and make our cities, towns and village centres more resilient to ASB.
- ensure that victims of persistent and severe ASB in our communities are heard and know how to get help.
- increase visible foot patrols to deter ASB in our communities.
- work with police and partners to deliver a robust and targeted partnership approach, using the range of powers available to all partners.

Policing Priorities & Aims: 2023

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ROAD SAFETY:

the Commissioner has partnered with the Vision Zero South West Road Safety Partnership. This is a collaboration of all the organisations in Devon and Cornwall who deal with road safety. They have set the target of halving all fatal and serious collisions by 2030, and eventually eradicating them completely.

DRUGS:

the Commissioner outlines that to tackle drugs effectively, both the supply of drugs into our communities and the level of demand for those drugs must be addressed. She wants to help and encourage people to report drug dealing occurring in their communities - either to the police or to Crimestoppers, making the South West a hostile environment for drug dealing. She wants to raise awareness of the threat of county lines, and support collaborative and multi-agency approaches to the sharing of intelligence and best practice.



Rural Focus Calendar: 2023

2023	THEMES
JANUARY	Rural road safety
FEBRUARY	Illegal off-roading
MARCH	Livestock worrying
APRIL	Agricultural plant vehicle & machinery theft
MAY	Equine crime
JUNE	Heritage crime
JULY	Agricultural plant vehicle & machinery theft
AUGUST	Trespass & rights of way
SEPTEMBER	Livestock theft
OCTOBER	Fly tipping
NOVEMBER	Poaching
DECEMBER	Fuel and battery theft



Meet the Team:



Our team currently consists of our Neighbourhood Team Leader (Sergeant) and our Sector Inspector, 8 Neighbourhood Beat Managers and 3 PCSOs; with 1 post hopefully being filled in the next few months.

A few words from Inspector Gray:

"My name is Phil Gray and I'm the Sector Inspector for Rural East Devon. As the Sector Inspector, I am responsible for the Response and Neighbourhood teams that Police across this wonderful geography. I began my career back in 1998 in Bedfordshire, working in the very busy area of Luton. After several years there, I decided to transfer to Devon & Cornwall Police, and was posted to North Devon where I remained on general patrol until several years later, taking up a post with the local Neighbourhood team.

After a few more years, I made the decision to specialise and went into the Criminal Investigation Department, most commonly known as CID. I became a Detective Constable dealing with serious and complex crime.



Meet the Team:

Unknown to me at the time, this is where the majority of my service was to take place. I later took my promotion exams, and was successfully promoted to Detective Sergeant, and then Detective Inspector, where I oversaw a team of Detectives and serious and complex investigations.

Around 2019, having stayed in North Devon since transferring all those years ago, I moved towards Exeter and became the Detective Inspector within the Public Protection Unit, which deals mainly with child-related investigations, and the management of serious and sexual violent offenders.

Having worked in that specialist area for two years, I decided that I wanted a complete change and decided to put my uniform back on, and was lucky enough to be posted into my current role as Sector Inspector.

This role brings very different challenges to those within the CID and Child Investigation departments. I have a great team of Neighbourhood and Response officers who all put themselves in harms way every day of the year in order to protect those within our communities, and do their best to keep everyone safe. As I enter the last 5 years of my 30 year career, I feel very privileged to lead such a dedicated team of individuals in a beautiful part of Devon."

Sergeant Beards: 10 years of service

"I really enjoy my role as the NTL. I have enjoyed being able to understand the needs of the community we serve, and be able to adapt the way I work and the way that my team works in order to better suit these needs. I am proud of the work that has been carried out by my team and I over the last 12 months. We have experienced a diverse range of different incidents, notably a number of warrants, policing events across Rural East Devon - such as the Sidmouth Air Show - and also a number of events relating to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and then the Queen's Funeral.

I started my career with D&C Police on 7th January 2013, and so I have just celebrated a decade with the force. I started as a call handler at the control room at Middlemoor, Exeter. My role involved inputting crime reports from police officers and members of the public.

I began my career as a police officer on 27th October 2014. I was initially posted to a response team in Mid Devon, before moving on to response in Exeter. Following that, I had a period of time working on the Exeter Neighbourhood Team, covering the Beacon Heath patch. During that time, I passed my Sergeants exam and as such I began my sergeant career in Exeter on response. In subsequent years, I took charge of response teams in Mid Devon and then East Devon. Since April 2022 I have been the sergeant for the Rural East Devon Neighbourhood team, a role that I am really enjoying. I am proud to be the

I am not originally from the South West. I was born in Burnley in Lancashire, where I lived until I was 14. I then had the good fortune of being able to move to Devon, a place I now consider to be home. I attended school and college locally, before becoming a joiner. Prior to joining the police, I spent 7 years as a joiner building staircases. I have family who are current police officers, and older relatives who had enjoyed careers in the police prior to retirement. I had always had a strong desire to follow in their footsteps and to become a police officer. It is a role that I am proud of. I have really enjoyed my first decade with Devon and Cornwall Police. I have been really fortunate to gain some unique experiences. Notably, I represented the police force in London as a Public Order officer during former US President Donald Trumps first visit to the UK. I was also fortunate enough to represent Devon and Cornwall Police by being deployed to Op London Bridge in 2022, assisting the policing operation following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I am really proud of my career and I look forward to seeing what the next decade will bring!"



Meet the Team: PC Parfett



I am PC Sam Parfett, and I am Neighbourhood Beat Manager (the local bobby in old money) for Seaton Town. I'm supported by another officer for the Seaton Rural area PC Craig Amarilli, and long serving PCSO Mike McGauley.

I joined the team here at Seaton in March 2022 after spending the first part of my career working as a Response Officer in Exeter and then Honiton. I joined Devon & Cornwall Police for a change of scenery after spending six years in the Royal Navy, serving both ashore and at sea - initially as an Electronic Warfare Specialist, and latterly in the Royal Navy Police. The first half of my career saw me deploy on many an occasion to the North Sea to hunt for submarines as part of a multi-nation task force, and I was also fortunate enough to represent the Royal Navy at both the Cenotaph and Royal Albert Hall for Remembrance Services.

The second half of my career saw me dealing with investigations involving service personnel across the world, policing Plymouth's Union Street and attending events such as the annual Army V Navy match and Twickenham and Armed Forces Day at Llandudno. Learning how to police and look after sailors and marines who eat, sleep and work in a large tin can of about 133 metres in length means I'm quite suited to neighbourhood policing, especially in our small town where the skills of communication, patience and discretion are vital in maintaining the confidence of the community.

I've really enjoyed my time here so far, and I try to keep you as up-to-date as possible with any developments in investigations and when we'll be attending local events. You can expect to see a lot more of us this year as we're going to be re-launching a number of crime prevention initiatives including Boat Watch and Beach Hut Watch, and (fingers crossed) this year should see the team provided with an e-bike which will help us get around areas like the Seaton Wetlands and provide a high-visibility presence in areas where our cars can't reach and my feet can't get me quickly enough!

Local News Story: Police Officer takes injured seagull under her wing.

In early December 2022, PC Jess Crabtree was on routine patrol of Seaton when she came across the injured baby sea gull on The Esplanade. In addition to the neighbourhood policing team who are permanently based in Seaton, routine 24/7 patrols are conducted by the response teams in Honiton, of which PC Crabtree is one of the dedicated Seaton units. Before joining the police, Jess worked for a local animal rescue charity and so she was quickly able to identify that the black headed gull (not the sort that steals your chips on the beach) was badly injured and unable to fly as a result. PC Crabtree battled through the wind and rain in the night before wrapping the injured gull in her fluorescent jacket and placing him safely into the police car. Knowing that she'd be unable to take the gull to any local vets because of the potential avian flu outbreak, Jess took the now affectionately named Gilbert with her back to the station to deliberate what to do with him.



A keen animal lover, Jess, knew that the only way to make sure Gilbert got the help he needed was to take him under her wing, so to speak. She made the decision to take Gilbert home with her where she setup some temporary accommodation for him in her bath. She then nursed him and fed him daily with a diet of tuna chunks in water - not brine - because the oil would get in his feathers and reduce their water resistance. Around a week later, when Gilbert's health was showing signs of improvement, Jess took him to the river Axe to be released, where he flew away with his new lease of life. Next month, Jess will begin training as our new Wildlife Crime Officer for Rural East Devon, where she'll be a point of contact and expert for dealing with all animal matters, whether that's livestock worrying, raptor persecution or poaching. We'd like to take the opportunity to express our thanks to PC Crabtree for this act of selfless dedication to the animal and to the community.





Seaton Spotlight: Local Engagement

Hopefully the younger members of the community have enjoyed seeing us recently! For example, local officers recently visited Branscombe Primary School.

Most children won't have met a Police Officer before, or will only have known us in a negative way. However, we also want them to know us as a place that they can go to for help. The last thing we would want is a lost or frightened child to be too scared to come and speak to us; so getting into schools is a great way to facilitate positive encounters.

This is just a snapshot of what the team have been up to recently.





Seaton: For your information...

Fuel & Oil Theft

Theft of fuel is a concern for the police and rural communities. Fuel can be stolen from vehicles and storage tanks using siphoning equipment that can vary from basic tubes to more sophisticated arrangements involving pumps and the cutting of fuel lines. Batteries can also be stolen from farm machinery and electric fences.

HOW CAN THIS BE PREVENTED?

- Wherever possible, keep vehicles and machinery in a secure area
- Consider the use of locking fuel caps
- Re-fuel vehicles just before the planned journey rather than leaving a vehicle fully fuelled overnight
- Park vehicles in areas that are well-lit so they can be observed easily
- Improve lighting and focus on vulnerable areas
- Fit anti-siphoning devices
- Install or confirm that existing CCTV is fit for purpose, and that it covers tanks and vulnerable vehicles
- Consider using fuel dyes, or 'PAINT IT PINK' for batteries
- Install cages and/or improve security that surrounds fuel storage tanks
- Consider using 'bunded' fuel tanks if your existing storage facility is not of that type

Fuel & Oil Theft

- Consider installing fuel cap alarms. More advanced systems can be linked to security lighting or can send a text message to the owners or security provider. An isolation switch allows authorised access to the tank for refuelling
- Make sure gates and compounds are locked and secure; consider fitting an anti-attack cover for the lock
- Arrange to check vehicles and premises outside of normal working hours
- Agricultural sites should consider portable refuelling systems that can be locked in secure storage areas and not left in fields or stock yards
- Use appropriate signage at the entrance where security devices are being used. This will act as a deterrent
- Consider signing up to your local Farm Watch scheme
- Follow your Rural Affairs Team on Twitter @DCPoliceRural_D
- Sign up for free alerts from Devon and Cornwall Police at alerts.dc.police.uk

Thanks for reading! Stay tuned for the March issue...