



# Watch Schemes Newsletter

## Somerset

### Autumn 2015

#### **Area Commander**

I would like to introduce myself as the New Area Commander for Somerset.

It is a real privilege to be given the opportunity to take on this role. Of course the strength of the team in Somerset is thanks to the hard work and commitment of officers, staff and of course volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators at the centre of that work.

I'm looking forward to working with you all to manage the challenges ahead.

*Jan Wyllie*

Chief Superintendent  
Area Commander, Somerset

#### **Local Policing Support Team**

Our organisation has gone through some major changes over the past 12 months in order to enhance the service we deliver to you while still being able to deliver necessary savings. The neighbourhood teams and the patrol teams now work together as a 'Local Policing Team' to ensure we have the right people with the right skills and local knowledge on the ground when you need us most.

Supporting those teams you will find the newly created (and aptly named) Local Policing Support Team! Managed by Inspector Joanna Ross the team has 3 bases across Somerset – Bridgwater Police Centre, Yeovil Police Station and Weston Super Mare Police Station.

The team provide the specialist skills and tactical knowledge needed to tackle local problems and work closely with the problem solving team at Force Headquarters. Local Policing Support Teams consist of experts in Crime Reduction, liquor licensing, youth work, events planning, Anti-Social Behaviour, Rural Crime and of course your Neighbourhood Watch.

Local Policing Support Team  
Somerset

## Seasonal Advice

It is important to check security of houses, sheds, garages and outbuildings and ensure that locks, alarms etc are in good working order. The autumn months bring with them cooler evenings, and the following events:

**Halloween** – the NHW has A5 posters available to request people not to call, contact the Neighbourhood Watch Office at Bridgwater for copies.

**Carnival Season** – many people take the opportunity to go out to watch these spectacular events. Make sure that houses are secure when they are unattended, also a suggestion to make them look as though someone is home by leaving lights on timers etc.

**Bonfire Night** – again a time for people to go out and enjoy themselves, and again make sure that homes etc are secure and that pets are kept in a safe place

**Christmas** – when shopping make sure that vehicles are kept secure when unattended and that you do not leave any items of value on display – this reduces the likelihood of vehicles being broken into and your valuable purchases stolen. Similarly at home we suggest on top of our usual security advice, you do not leave wrapped presents on display from windows. Unfortunately there are some criminals who target houses at this time of year so best not to leave temptation in their way.

## GOOD WORK

One of our annual meetings had a presentation from local staff regarding their work on graffiti and as a result a co-ordinator was encouraged to make enquiries regarding incidents in their area. They found that the property subject of the graffiti belonged to a Housing Association and so contacted them about its removal. As a result it has now been removed and has much improved the area. Also as a result local residents are keeping in contact with one another more and passing on details of even more graffiti issues which is also being dealt with – great news for the community as a whole.

## VISITS TO POLICE CENTRE AT BRIDGWATER

We recently publicised a number of dates for visits to the new Police Centre at Bridgwater. The uptake from co-ordinators has been tremendous - all places are now booked and we have a waiting list as well.

Decision will be made early in 2016 regarding any future dates and we will publicise these to co-ordinators when we can.

## ACTION FRAUD

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, even if it was unsuccessful you should report it. If you do not, remember that the fraudster will learn by this experience and may be successful next time.

The national agency 'Action Fraud' deals specifically with fraud issues of all types taking reports of incidents and giving advice.

Contact via their website at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by phone during office hours on **0300-123-2040**.

## OFFICE CONTACT:

Watch Scheme Administrator  
Bridgwater Police Centre  
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Bridgwater TA6 4RR

**Telephone 101 (switchboard)**  
**Or 01278-644799 (direct dial)**

Email: [lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk)