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Day of Action leads to 19 arrests

Officers across Somerset held a Day of Action as part of the latest three-month Operation Relentless campaign.

Police targeted issues such as drug-dealing, theft, speeding and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Local officers were assisted by HQ staff, support groups, road policing units, dog handlers and members of the Special Constabulary.

Over the course of the day, which was held in September, officers carried out misuse of drugs act warrants, vehicle stop checks, drug testing of pub-goers, and additional proactive crime prevention patrols.

In East Somerset, there were 19 arrests for offences including possession of drugs, breach of bail,

shop lifting and anti-social behaviour.

Insp Jackie Gold said: "The activities were carried out with a lot of commitment from police teams and partner agencies as well as members of the Special Constabulary and we are very pleased with the results.

"We take all these types of offences extremely seriously and target them all year round.

"But we know these days of action also make a real difference in helping to tackle the issues that matter to local people and providing reassurance to our communities.

"The Operation Relentless campaigns were run across the force area during July, August and September and were a great success."

Somerton, Martock, Langport and area

Covering the areas of: St Michaels | Islemoor | Curry Rivel | Turn Hill | Langport & Huish | Wessex | South Petherton | Burrow Hill | Martock | Hamdon

Top tips for securing your bike

Crime prevention officer PCSO Beth Poole is urging cyclists to make sure they protect their bikes and has provided the following top tips:

- Secure your bike in a well-lit public area using designated cycle racks where possible
- For maximum protection, use two locks of different types secured around the wheels, frame and stand
- Mark your bike with your postcode on two different positions
- Take a photograph of your bike and note its make, model and any identifying features
- Register your bike for free on the UK national property register www.immobilise.com



Message from Insp. Jackie Gold

Welcome to our newsletter and an opportunity to provide you with a snapshot of some of the work we carry out in your area.

We are now in the season of shorter days and darker evenings and I would like to give a timely reminder about the importance of keeping your home safe.

We have had a number of burglaries recently and, although we have made some significant arrests, it is important to stress that the majority of burglars are opportunists who look for easy targets, such as insecure doors and windows.

Keep valuables out of sight, secure your doors and windows and always report any suspicious activity to the police. Let's all make life difficult for the burglar.

But please remember that burglaries are not common. South Somerset is one of the safest areas in the UK, we have low crime rates in comparison with many other parts of our country and this includes a low burglary rate.

So please enjoy yourself this winter and make sure you keep safe - and warm!

New scheme set up in Somerton

A new scheme has been set up in Somerton by the police and local businesses.

Following a request from local pub landlords, PCSO Elaine Seaward has organised a Pub Watch initiative for pubs and licensed premises in the town.

The preliminary meeting for the scheme was held in September.

The new group now meets once a week to discuss any issues that have arisen that week and share information.

Elaine said: "If there is someone who is causing problems in one or more pubs the scheme enables members to consider banning them from all pubs in the town to ensure the problem isn't simply moved to another pub.

"The scheme also covers Yeovil, Chard and Sherborne which means that troublemakers could find themselves banned from pubs across the area."



Youngsters see distress caused

An issue affecting an elderly couple in Langport has been resolved thanks to a face-to-face meeting.

PCSO Ben Middleditch was contacted by the elderly woman who was very distressed as her garden had been vandalised several times.

Ben was able to identify four of the individuals responsible for the damage, who were all under the age of 12.

Because of their age, Ben organised a meeting between the couple and the youngsters, under the Restorative Justice process, so that the boys could see the distress they were causing by their actions.

Beat manager for Langport, PC Toni Lines, said: "The approach proved to be the ideal solution.

"Meeting the youngsters was very helpful for the couple as they had previously been quite frightened of those responsible for the damage.

"However, they saw that, while the youngsters had acted recklessly, they were not a threat.

"For the boys, they saw the impact that their actions were having on the couple which they hadn't considered before and were quite alarmed by this."

She added: "Since then there has been no further trouble and we are very pleased that the issue has been resolved.

"In cases like this Restorative Justice can be a useful additional approach at our disposal."

You can also visit us on Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, through your mobile or TV service or via our Police Kiosks



Make sure you are safe and secure this winter

If you are out working or socialising late into the evening and your home is empty, there are some steps you can take to provide extra security:

- Always lock unattended windows and doors
- Leave on a light or radio, or set timers
- Fit a security alarm
- Register possessions such as mobile phones and laptops at www.immobilise.com
- Look out for your neighbour - if you see anything suspicious in your neighbourhood call 999 immediately. For non-urgent calls dial 101.



Beat manager Sgt Alan Bell said: "This was a great result and we will continue to take a robust stance against metal theft."

"We would also encourage people to be vigilant and report anyone acting suspiciously to the police so we can check they are supposed to be there."

Officer awarded commendation for work on metal theft

PC Toni Lines was temporarily seconded to the operation which led to the recent arrest of three people in the Langport area. She received a District Commander's Commendation for her contribution to this operation.

District Commander Chief Supt Nikki Watson said: "Having an in-depth knowledge of her beat area, Toni showed great enthusiasm and motivation in helping to deal with an issue affecting the Somerton Sector."

"Toni played a crucial role in this operation, providing invaluable information and skills, working many extra hours and rearranging her shifts as required."

"Her commitment has had a positive impact on the Somerton Sector and she is commended for her contribution."



Relentless raids on metal thefts

In a dedicated operation 300 police officers simultaneously entered and searched over 40 scrap metal dealerships across the force area.

Scrap dealers in East Somerset were among those searched during the operation, which involved district officers, support groups, sniffer dogs, financial investigators, British Transport Police and an investigation team from British Telecom.

As a result of the operation, which took place in September, four people were arrested in Somerset on suspicion of handling stolen goods.

Across the force area approximately 40 tonnes of suspected stolen property was also seized, ranging from cable, copper, road signs and lead flashing to farm gates, machinery, and drain covers.

Insp Ray Hulin, the force lead on metal theft, said: "We want to send a direct message to those involved in metal theft or who handle stolen goods - we will continue to use an intrusive approach in

dealing with criminals who are making a lot of money at the cost and inconvenience of everyone else.

"Any legitimate scrap dealers, who actively refuse to deal with stolen metal and engage with local policing teams, have nothing to fear. We have been working closely with many of them for some time and continue to do so."

Arrests following cable theft

Over the last few months officers have made a number of arrests in relation to metal thefts in the Somerton and wider area.

In the summer, officers arrested two men and a woman in relation to a theft of hundreds of pounds worth of cable in the Langport area.

One of those arrested was later charged with theft by finding and pleaded guilty to this offence at South Somerset Magistrates Court.

Avon and Somerset Police Authority wants to hear your views

We would like to know what you think about your local police, where resources should go and how much you are prepared to pay towards policing. We would like residents from across Avon & Somerset to be part of focus groups on the police budget.

If you would like to take part call 01275 816377 or email feedback@aspola.org.uk. **Remember** – changes to the way the police are held to account are planned with Police Authorities being abolished and replaced with Police and Crime Commissioners. For the latest information go to www.aspola.org.uk



New PCSO joins the policing team

PCSO Kym Rudge has joined the neighbourhood policing team in the Somerton Sector to cover South Petherton, Lopen, Seavingtons, Shepton Beauchamp and Over Stratton.

She joins from Yeovil, where she spent two years covering the town centre. She will also co-ordinate Horse Watch for the area.

She said: "I'm really enjoying my new role. I love being in rural policing and I'm looking forward to getting to know the residents in the areas I cover and helping to tackle the issues that matter to them."

Force initiatives

The police deal with a range of different issues and types of crime. This can be anything from theft to threatening behaviour. For further details on additional services the police provide or support please see below:

Crime Reduction Specialists

There are two new crime reduction specialists in the Somerset East district.

Their role includes carrying out crime reduction surveys of domestic premises and small businesses to identify ways they can improve their security.

They also work with partner agencies to provide advice about initiatives they might be undertaking and look at police-led initiatives to address any emerging crime trends.

PCSO Beth Poole, who has worked for the force for the past seven years and took on her new role in October, covers South Somerset while PCSO Yvonne Mears took on the new role at the same time for Mendip.

They work alongside architectural liaison officer PC Steve Nickerson who advises on crime reduction at the planning stage of new buildings.



Long service awards issued

Two officers on the Somerton beat team have been presented with their Long Service Awards after clocking up more than 50 years between them.

Sgt Alan Bell and PCSO Melanie Austin were presented with their certificates in the summer.

Alan Bell joined the Metropolitan Police in 1990 and also worked in Scotland before joining Avon and Somerset Police in 2002.

Melanie Austin (below with Chief Supt Nikki Watson) joined Devon and Cornwall Police in 1979 as a Special Constable and has worked as a Traffic Warden in Yeovil and a PCSO in Wincanton and Somerton.

Insp Jackie Gold said: "Alan and Mel's years of dedicated service mean they have a wealth of knowledge and experience that they have brought to their roles.

"Between them, they have been helping to tackle crime and support the community of East Somerset for nearly 30 years and I would like to congratulate them for their commitment and years of service."



Dial 101 for Police

The police have launched a new non-emergency number that is quick and simple so it's even easier for members of the public to get in touch.

Avon and Somerset Police's non-emergency number has changed from 0845 456 7000 to **101**.

It is part of a national programme which will see all police non-emergency numbers change to 101 by the start of 2012 and means that any police force can be contacted by using one number.

Use 999: In an emergency if someone is at risk of being hurt or a crime is happening there and then

Use 101 to:

- Report a crime
- Contact a local officer
- Get crime prevention advice
- Make an appointment with a police officer
- Or any other non-emergency

Calls to 101 from landlines and mobile phones will cost 15p per call irrespective of its duration.

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired can textphone 18001 101.

If you need this document in another format

Telephone - **101**

Typetalk - **01275 816 888**

or visit

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/WebsiteResources/accessibility/



Call the charity **Crimestoppers** anonymously on **0800 555 111**

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

We never ask for your name or trace your call