

# Mendip East Newsletter – August 2021.



Welcome to this month's newsletter, for August which is sent out from the team at the start of each month to keep you updated about what your local neighbourhood policing team have been up to and anything we have planned for the future – If you no longer wish to receive this please let us know. We have now seen our local Facebook pages change these can now be found under: Frome Neighbourhood Policing and Mendip Neighbourhood Policing.

Although the 18<sup>th</sup> July was considered by many as 'Freedom Day', for the police this is not the time for complacency. You are likely to have heard that there is a significant increase in the numbers of COVID-19 cases across the country, with parts of our force area now seeing more cases per 100,000 than the national average, mainly due to the rapid spread of the Delta variant.

For full details of what has changed, visit the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

## Frome Town –

July has been another busy month for the town team; we have seen the COVID-19 restrictions ease even further meaning another period of adjustment for all of our local businesses and communities. We also continue to develop our working relationships with our schools and Nursery's, this month PCSO's have been able to visit and deliver lessons at Harlequins Nursery. Following an incident in the area we were invited in to talk to the children about the role of the Police in the community, we showed them some of the equipment we use and talked about what we do as a police force to reassure them that we are here to help. We also had plenty of good questions from the children who were very engaging with us, it was great to be able to celebrate their end of term with them.

The town team have also been able to return to holding events, we were delighted to be able to offer our Bike Registration Service at Frome Town Councils Picnic in the Meadow, It was great to see so many people out supporting the event and it was great to chat to so many people. The town team also continue their face-to-face engagements around the town, including holding sessions where members of the public could come and chat to us directly and raise any questions or concerns. Our aim is to continue and grow these sessions and would encourage everyone to visit our neighbourhood website, <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/frome-town/> and our Facebook and Twitter feeds for further information.

As the school year came to an end this month, the team have been able to hold the Police Citizenship Awards run at Oakfield Academy, where we celebrate the amazing choices and achievements that lead these young people into being amazing Role Models to their peers.

## **Oakfield Academy Citizenship Award Winners**



**This years Police run Citizenship Award Winners 2021  
Indie & Willow Millard (Autumn 2020) Gracie Oswin (Spring 2021)  
Hugo Lyall (Summer 2021 & Overall Winner)  
Presented by PCSO Gary Maule & PCSO Supervisor Stephen Reading.**



This month the Frome Neighbourhood Officers have taken positive action in response to an incident that occurred where it was reported that a large number of vehicles were causing Anti-Social Behaviour within a local business Park. Over the weekend 23rd-25th July Police ran an operation where officers were stopping and engaging with those attending the location, Police are hoping that this engagement will educate those that attended and that they will now understand that police will take positive action to prevent anti-social behaviour and to keep the public safe. Police will continue to work with those responsible for the security of the site, and prosecute anyone who commits any offence.

### **Frome and Shepton Rural-**

This month has seen the team busy dealing with a number of rural issues. The Frome Rural Neighbourhood team have recently been involved in an incident where they seized two air-arms suspected to be used in the commission of poaching and firearms offences, these air-arms will now be destroyed preventing them from being misused again. The team have also been involved with an incident whereby two catapults and ball bearings were seized from offenders. The poachers are currently under investigation for taking bird species with the catapults as the law protects all birds. Species such as wood Pidgeon, previously classed as a pest species, can only be culled with a reasonable excuse such as danger to public health or significant damage to crops - evidence of which would need to be provided if requested by the courts. Poaching is often associated with other rural crimes such as farm thefts. The team continue to conduct dedicated patrols tackling rural crime across the area which will continue to provide results like this to ensure the safety of the rural community.

Also this month we have had a report of a local Farmer who suffered a significant loss of crops due to trampling, the field close to Frome on Egford lane has had large groups socialising in the fields which has resulted in the crops being destroyed. As well as being beautiful, the countryside is a place of work and livelihood for many people and this kind of damage will cause significant loss of earnings. We encourage all to enjoy the countryside responsibly and utilise the public footpaths, crop trampling is a form of criminal damage and police will take positive action to those caught.

The Shepton Mallet rural PCSOs have been out with the Community Speed Watch volunteers supporting them with the great work they carry out during their sessions, they have recently assisted with the Lyford, Chilcompton and Croscombe schemes.

Community Speed Watch is a partnership between the community, the police and local authorities. It gives local people the ability to actively get involved in the road safety. The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. To find out more information please visit: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/community-speedwatch/>

A word of warning to local gardeners in and around the villages. There are reports of garden equipment being stolen from sheds and garages, along with sightings of suspicious vans seen driving around several villages and when residents confront the occupants, the reasons given are a little dubious. Because of these reports, police will be carrying out extra patrols in the area to offer a visible presence and reassurance.



## Shepton Mallet Town –

This month has seen the team supporting Anti-Social Behaviour week between 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July. The Shepton PCSOs have been patrolling the known ASB hotspots within the town and will continue to do so over the summer months. We have also held a neighbourhood surgery at one of our locations so we can continue to be as visible as possible. The town team will continue their face-to-face engagements around the town, including holding sessions where members of the public can come and chat to us directly and raise any questions or concerns. Our aim is to continue and grow these sessions and would encourage everyone to visit our neighbourhood website, <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/shepton-mallet-town/> and our Facebook and Twitter feeds for further information.

The team continue to hold Bike Marking Events the latest was on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at West Shepton Skate Park in conjunction with the Skate Jam event organised by Shepton Town council and we were able to mark six bikes and hand out leaflets, further events will be advertised on our website and social media accounts.



## Summer crime prevention advice for properties/outbuildings.

The number of burglaries often increases during the summer, when burglars tend to try doors and windows to gain entry that have been left insecure

- Join Neighbourhood Watch to help reduce crime in your local area.
- Make sure you lock doors and windows during the night. Burglars know that people will leave back doors open during the summer to keep cool.
- If you are out or going away, ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you and pick up mail so it is not in view.
- Ask a neighbour if they do not mind parking their car on your driveway and trimming your garden to make your home look occupied.
- Cut the front and back lawns before you go away and trim any plants that burglars could hide behind.
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Before your holiday, do not advertise that you are going away on social media, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- Make a habit of checking that ground floor windows are closed and locked when you go to bed. Upstairs windows should be closed/locked when the house is unoccupied



We often see an increase in thefts from sheds/outbuildings during the summer months due to them being left insecure, below is some general advice given,

- Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use.
- It is worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they are secured with wire mesh or grills. In addition, keep it locked at all times.
- Consider a battery-operated shed alarm, they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.
- Lock it, hide it or mark it, do not give them the opportunity or the tools to commit the crime. Lock everything away securely, tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.
- Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage, Keep an eye out for our bike marking events.
- Never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you are not around.
- Property marking your items is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode, forensic marking is also an option.

The top five most common items stolen from sheds

1. Bikes
2. Mowers
3. Sports equipment
4. Power tools
5. Garden tools

Whilst now confirmed July has seen the end of Covid restrictions across England. In addition, there are local, national and international events that are likely to have an impact on the demand within your local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) in the forthcoming months.

Any none urgent reports should continue to be made via 101 or the internet reporting form. For any emergencies please call 999.

Any concerns during this period regarding your local NPT should be directed towards NPT Supervisors of which details can be found on the Beat Pages.

Mendip Neighbourhood Supervisor contact details:

Sergeant Rachel Clark

Email: [Rachel.clark@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Rachel.clark@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

PCSO Supervisor Stephen Reading

Email: [Stephen.reading@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Stephen.reading@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

**We continue to ask that members of the public who are witnessing any incidents to report them to us as they are happening, via 999, 101 or the Force Website.**