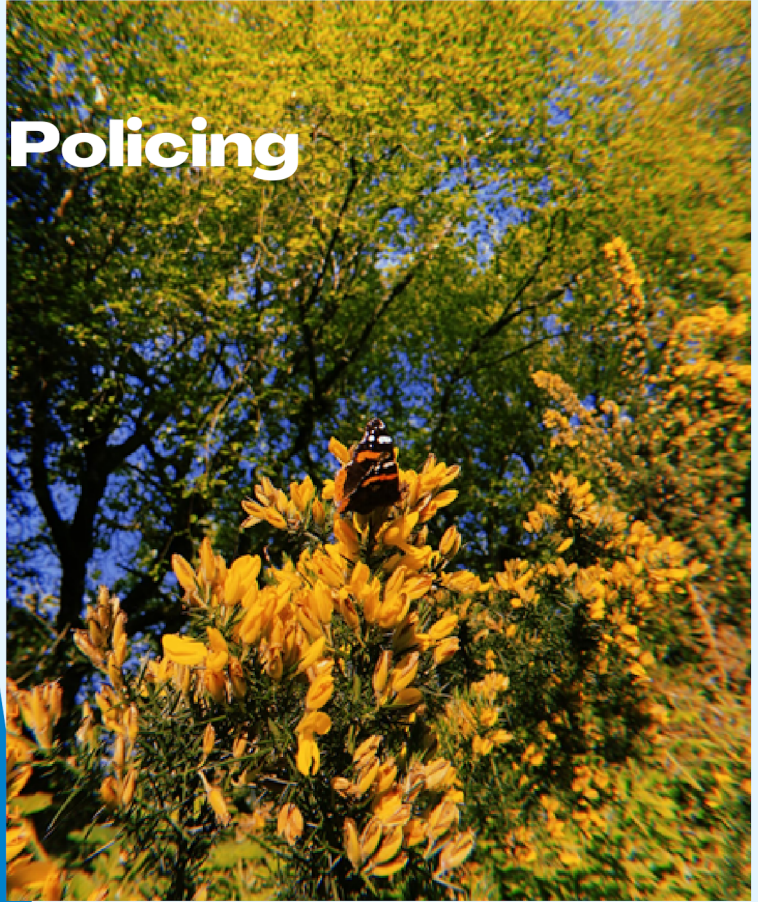




Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

Image credit: Megan Seymour

Honiton Town: Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter June 2023



*Keep up to
date with us
on social
media:*



Facebook:

Rural East Devon Police
Devon and Cornwall Police



Twitter:

@EastDevonPolice
@DC_Police



YouTube:

DC Police



Instagram:

@dc_police

Devon & Cornwall Alert



Is a two-way community messaging system covering Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that helps us to connect with our communities. It tells you what is happening in your area.

You can choose what information you receive, from whom, and when.

D&C Alert plays a significant role in our crime prevention activity. We utilise the platform to circulate key prevention messages and crime appeals. Messages will be tailored to your specific location and interests, so you can ensure the information you receive is always relevant.

To find out more, you can register for free at alerts.dc.police.uk

Your local Neighbourhood team:

Inspector Phil Gray
Sergeant Matthew Beards
PC Jaz Trudgeon
PC Katrina Catton
PCSO Darren England

How to contact us:



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 to have a conversation with a staff member at our contact centre. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



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.

Where to find us:

Honiton Police Station, 167 High St, EX14 1LQ

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 in Exeter, open Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 18:00

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



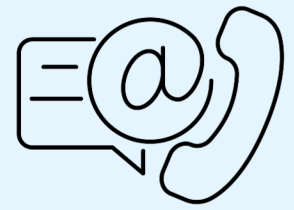
When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby, or immediate action is required, call us on **999**

- If you call us on 999 by mistake, please help us to reduce demand by staying on the line to let us know that everything is okay



To report a non-emergency crime that has already happened, go to **dc.police.uk** Here you can record all the appropriate details on the online 'report' 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.

Who should I contact?



Please visit www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ for more

Abnormal vehicle load: <https://www.gov.uk/esdal-abnormal-load-notification>

Animal & Wildlife crime:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wc/wildlife-crime/what-is-wildlife-crime/>
999 / 101

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999 (24h)

Local Council for Dog Warden: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Antisocial behaviour: E.g. nuisance noise, abandoned vehicles

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/>

<https://www.dc.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

Citizen's Advice: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Local Council & Environmental Health Team: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Environment Crime:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ec/environment-crime/>

Local Council: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Gov.uk

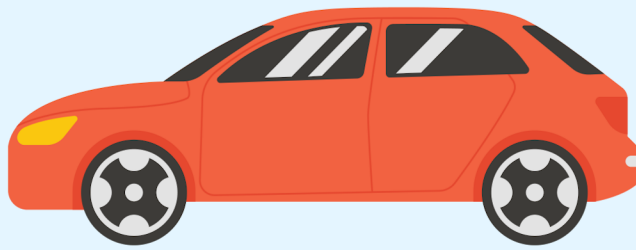
The Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24h)

Events and Processions:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/e/events-and-processions/>

Firearms licensing:

<https://firearms.dc.police.uk>



VEHICLE CRIME:

VANDALISM AND FUEL THEFT

Unfortunately, vehicle crime has recently been seeing an upward trend, with cars being keyed and tyres being slashed, as well as fuel being stolen.

Here are 5 golden rules to help keep your vehicle safe:

Park in well-used and well-lit locations:

- Vehicles parked in dark and less busy areas are more liable to be damaged or broken into because the suspect cannot easily be seen anymore. It is always advisable to park somewhere that is well-lit and where people are walking by, and there is likely to be passing traffic. The busier, the better as a rule.
- If your car stands out - for example, if it is more expensive than others in the area - it could be a target. Park somewhere where your car is likely to be safer; it may not always be the shortest or most convenient route back to it, but it could help to prevent damage to your vehicle. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Hide your stuff away:

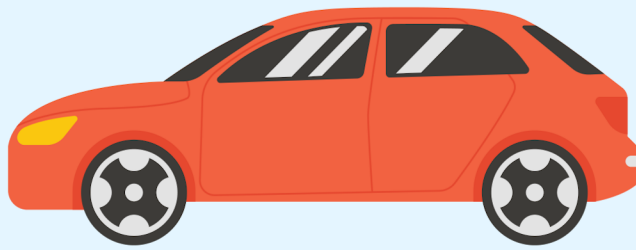
- Leaving valuable items such as iPads, mobiles, and laptops in plain view is a vulnerable action to take. If you cannot take it with you, then hide it. This also applies to bags and clothing.
- For devices such as sat navs, it is good to hide the device and the rubber suction cup that sticks it to the windscreen - but don't forget to check if there is a mark on the glass that gives away the fact that you have one on board.

Protect your windows:

- Consider using clear security film to strengthen the glass, and leave minimum damage if someone does try to smash their way into your vehicle.

Pick your car park carefully:

- The Safer Parking Scheme is a national standard that benchmarks the safety and security of car parks. A 'park mark' means that the site has been assessed and vetted by the police. Check out the website for more information and to find marked car parks: parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder



VEHICLE CRIME:

VANDALISM AND FUEL THEFT

Make space:

- If possible, when you park try to leave some space between your car and other cars. it not only prevents accidental damage, but it also means thieves or vandals are more likely to be seen.

When you park your vehicle, ensure to follow these simple steps:

- Close your sunroof
- Check that you have not left your keys in your ignition
- Do not keep any log books in your car
- Double check that your central locking has actually locked - listen for the clunk/clink noise (if you have a keyless car, then look through the window to check)
- Do not leave your car unattended with the engine running
- Do not leave anything of value in the car

What do I do if I experience criminal damage or vandalism to my vehicle?

We urge you to report it to the police immediately, using our online report forms available on our website [dc.police.uk](https://www.dc.police.uk)

Where possible and appropriate. to reduce the risk of fuel theft from your vehicle, use the following advice:

- Secure your vehicle and keys - do not leave your keys in your vehicle
- Consider locking your fuel cap
- Consider the use of security lighting and overt/covert CCTV
- Consider the use of alarms and anti-siphoning devices
- Park vehicles in busy, well-lit or overlooked areas if possible, ideally covered by CCTV
- Park with the fuel filler cap facing the road to act as a deterrent, as thieves cannot hide behind the vehicle
- Sign up to a Farm/Business watch as appropriate, and Devon and Cornwall Alert to keep up to date with prevention advice and what is happening in your area.



TOMBSTONING:

SAFETY BY THE COAST

As the weather becomes warmer, Seaton Neighbourhood Policing Team are appealing to parents, guardians and loved-ones to educate their children and friends around the dangers of tombstoning.

Tombstoning is a high-risk activity which involves jumping from height into water, often without understanding the dangers of what lies beneath or the strength and flow of the current. Only recently, the Coast Guard Rescue Team based at nearby Beer were called to reports of a 14-year-old girl who was in difficulty in the water at Axmouth Harbour. She had succumbed to cold water shock and became trapped against the harbour wall by the tidal stream, which caused her to swallow a lot of water. Fortunately, the quick thinking and combined efforts of the Axe Yacht Club staff, passers-by, Beer Coast Guard and Lyme Regis RNLI, disaster was averted and the young girl was brought safely back to shore.

We are all fortunate to live in such an amazing place. We have a beautiful coast-line and there is no better place to cool off after a hot day than in the sea. We know that tombstoning is something that you might have done yourself, and your parents did before that, and so forth - but it remains a dangerous activity. In addition to the dangers of the water, the harbour is a busy place and an approaching vessel may struggle to manoeuvre itself in time to avoid a collision with someone in the water. If anything can be taken from this recent incident, it's that the danger is very real and were it not for the actions of those present, the outcome could have been very different indeed.

We will continue to patrol the harbour area and educate those involved. Anyone who is found to be acting in an anti-social manner around the harbour area or causing a hazard to any marine traffic will be dealt with promptly and may find themselves returned to their home address.



TOMBSTONING:

SAFETY BY THE COAST

respectthewater.com and rnli.org provide some excellent information around water safety and what to do in an emergency.

HOW TO FLOAT

If you found yourself struggling in the water unexpectedly, your instinct would tell you to swim hard. But cold water shock could make you gasp uncontrollably. Then you could breathe in water and drown. Instead, you should Float to Live.

If you're struggling in the water, fight the urge to thrash around

Lean back, extend your arms and legs

Gently move them around to help you float if you need to

Float until you can control your breathing

Only then, call 999 or 112 for help or swim to safety.



SUMMER SAFETY:

BY THE WATER

With the warm and sunny weather we are experiencing at the moment, we would like to warn local residents and holiday makers of the dangers of being in the water under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Such weather often leads to some of the busiest times in Devon, particularly over the summer period and bank holidays; thousands of holiday makers make their way to the county to enjoy the countryside and the beaches.

Sadly, alcohol is often a major factor in many water-related incidents over the summer; not just for swimmers, but also for kayakers, paddleboarders, and jet skiers.

Anyone visiting the beach is advised to check local tide times and information before hitting the water. Even the most experienced of swimmers can get into trouble, so remember to respect the sea and the surrounding areas.

We want everyone to be able to enjoy the good weather safely. We have fantastic beaches here in Devon, but alcohol and swimming do not mix. If you have had a drink, stay on the shore. Alcohol impairs judgement, coordination, and reaction time. Going into the sea after consuming alcohol can put you and others in danger.

Please remember to stay hydrated, use plenty of suncream, and if you have been drinking, stay out of the sea.



LOCAL INPUTS:

WHAT'S ON NEAR ME?

Sidmouth Biodiversity Festival: 5th JUNE - 11th JUNE - visit www.sidvalleybiodiversity.org for more information

TUESDAY 6TH JUNE

Befriending Hub: 11am - 1:45pm at Throgmorton Hall, Dunkeswell. Contact TRIP on 01404 46529 for further details. Prices are £7 for lunch and activity, or £12 for lunch, activity and transport.

THURSDAY 15TH JUNE

Honiton Memory Cafe: 2pm - 4pm at Honiton Methodist Hall. Call on 07789 104 601 or visit www.dementiahoniton.com for more information.

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

Awliscombe and Weston Fete: from 1pm at The Otter Inn riverside gardens, Weston, EX14 3NZ

Honiton Repair Cafe: 9:30am - 12:30pm at the community use building, School Lane. Contact honitoncag21@gmail.com/01404 45073 for more information.

FRIDAY 7TH JULY

Pimms, Picnic, and party at the park (proceeds in aid of Hospiscare): 7pm - midnight at glebe Park, Upottery, Ex14 9RH. Contact Linda on 07955 739 194 for further details. Tickets (£30) must be purchased in advance and are non-refundable.

TUESDAY 13TH JUNE

Befriending Hub: 11am - 1:45pm at the Mackarness Hall, Honiton.

REFLECTION:

MAY

We cannot see this newsletter go out without mentioning the terrible weather we suffered on 9th May, with flooding across the area affecting those in Newton Poppleford and Harpford in particular. In times like this, there is only so much we can do as an emergency service, but it has been incredibly heart-warming to see communities come together to offer help and support for those who have been so drastically effected.



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

By Alert Officer Linzi Berryman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

**NEW DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE
WEBSITE**

Following the successful go-live of our new website, we are working to improve our non-urgent and non-emergency online contact service.

The home page of our website: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk now features a series of blue boxes – each of which is a link to our new web forms.

If you should need to get in touch about any non-emergency issue, we are asking you to use the online forms available on the new website rather than our old 101 email address.

To support the exclusive use of web forms, we removed the facility to be able to send emails to 101 on 19 April.

Why are we doing this?

The email reports we receive are often missing vital bits of information which we need to be able to understand the situation properly and respond appropriately.

As a result, we often need to engage in a lengthy email conversation to get the information we need which can take significant time and which, unfortunately, impacts our ability to deal with reports in a timely way.

The use of web forms will prevent this problem because they are constructed with “prompts” to ensure we have all the information we need from the very first time you get in touch. This allows our response to be both faster and more efficient.

An automatic message has been added to the old 101 email mailbox to support anyone who sends in any correspondence after this date.

Thank you for your understanding.

**Thanks for reading! Stay tuned
for the July issue...**