



BOARDMASTERS 2023

Devon and Cornwall Police has said its policing operation to support the Boardmasters festival 2023 was successful in achieving its aims, considering the challenges of approximately 50,000 people camping at the festival site and visiting Fistral Beach and the Newquay area.

Officers worked closely with festival organisers and partner agencies with the aim of keeping people safe at the event ensuring those attending, and the surrounding community enjoyed the festival.

Extra officers carried out additional foot patrols in the town centre and the Watergate Bay and Fistral Beach festival sites providing high visibility reassurance alongside preventing and detecting crime.

There were a small number of reported crimes within the festival, and these have been progressed by police, however, levels of crime and anti-social behaviour associated with the festival has reduced this year.

Chief Inspector Russell Dawe, from Devon and Cornwall Police, said: “Every year, we are part of the multi-agency planning process with partners and event organisers whose collective aim is to support and deliver a safe and enjoyable event for all.



BOARDMASTERS 2023

“In collaboration with the festival organisers, our focus has been safeguarding those attending the event and the development of a safe environment, and where necessary putting the correct support in place.

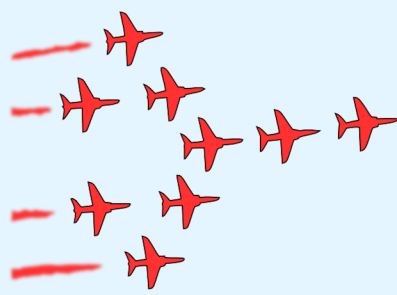
“We have disrupted criminality and the supply of drugs, reduced anti-social behaviour, and supported any victims of crime or those with vulnerabilities.

“Boardmasters has a very good welfare and safeguarding arrangement through the partnership approach it adopts. In support of this, we provided specialist officers at the event, to help respond immediately to any reports of sexual offences or concerns around drink spiking. This meant those small number of people impacted had immediate support by knowledgeable and expert staff and where required, we commenced a swift investigative response.”

Chief Inspector Russell Dawe added: “While it is extremely disappointing to see any crime at an event, a festival of this size will attract a very small minority who take advantage. I am really pleased and proud of the efforts police officers, staff and partners have made to deliver the security operation, and the proactive and preventative measures we undertook.

“We continue to develop and improve our approach to event policing to keep festivals of this nature safe and secure.

“It was a pleasure to welcome and engage with festival goers from across the country and ask everyone to take care when travelling home on the roads and transport network.”



SIDMOUTH AIR SHOW 2023



Although the weather may not have been the best, it certainly did not dampen the air show in Sidmouth over the Bank Holiday weekend! We are pleased to report that the event went forward without the need for much Police intervention. It is always such an honour getting to be a part of the community during events such as these, and the day of the air show was no different.

We were as delighted as everyone to see the air show return with the Red Arrows making their appearance, after the cancellation last year. All aerobatic displays were phenomenal, and we hope you got to see us out and about. We of course love to be included in events such as these, even more so when they require very little Police intervention - like this did - as it means everyone is in good spirits! You may have been aware of a few incidents that occurred later in the evening and into the hours of the following day. Those matters are currently under investigation and a male in his 30s is currently assisting officers with their enquiries.





**LOCAL INPUT: PCSO
HAYLEY WIDGER,
AXMINSTER**

SEPTEMBER 2023

Throughout August, PCSO Widger teamed up with the local community group Nourish. Nourish is a small community project who provides food for the most vulnerable people in the community. As well as providing nutritionally balanced home cooked food for people to reheat at home, they also work with children in the community who would normally be the recipient of free school meals. In short, they want to tackle holiday hunger. From a Policing perspective, this is a great opportunity to allow us to create some positive engagement opportunities, and to help to tackle anti-social behaviour during the holidays in the parks.

In 2022, PCSO Widger teamed up with Nourish to run a project called "Picnics in the Park". Nourish fund and provide the food to give children a picnic lunch every Tuesday during the summer holidays. The first year was such a success, they have provided the same service every holiday since then, and have embarked on their third year of summer holiday picnics. There have been 3 Tuesdays where she has assisted with the picnic in the park, with the final one being held at the 'Fun in the Field' event on Tuesday 29th August. Across the events, 197 children were fed and engaged positively.



LOCAL INPUT: PCSO HAYLEY WIDGER, AXMINSTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

PCSO Widger is really proud of her role in Axminster. She works closely with Nourish for several reasons. Firstly, being with the Nourish team allows parents and guardians to see that the event is safe and properly regulated. It also allows her to speak to the children who she now knows very well, and their families. She is able to discreetly discuss current issues the teams are trying to deal with and these conversations have allowed her to prevent situations of Anti Social Behaviour occurring. She has developed such a good relationship within Axminster that she now has people coming directly to her to discuss issues of concern they may have, which they may have previously responded to in a different way, causing ASB.

By visiting the play parks in Axminster in the Police Van, she is able to demonstrate positive police engagement and help Nourish by signposting the children and families who need the support the most. The Nourish team has helped feed a lot of hungry children and also have been able to help parents who are struggling by developing further community connections. In the last half term holiday, for example, they were able to feed 55 children in one day, visiting four parks in Axminster.



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**Be part of something
BIGGER**



WHAT'S ON NEAR ME?

SEPTEMBER 2023 EVENTS

Uffculme Show & Country Fair

Sunday 3rd September

On the Fair Day on the 16th at Bridwell Park, local PCSOs will be attending from 9am

Sidbury Fair Week

9th - 16th September

On the Fair Day on the 16th, local PCSOs will be attending from 10:30 with our new tractor!* (subject to dynamic demand). If you would like to meet our new PCSO, she is due to attend Sidbury Fair Day on Saturday 16th September, alongside PCSO England from Honiton.

Sidmouth Carnival

23rd September

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