



Bradford Area Board

Hello and welcome to this month's Community policing report for Trowbridge.

With the countdown to Christmas fast approaching, we will see millions of people going online to buy presents for their friends and family. What many do not realise, is the hidden threat that we now face from criminals online. Internet shoppers are being targeted with scams, which on the surface promise to save them time and money but in reality only deliver festive heartache and misery.

To make life as difficult as possible for the cyber fraudsters, we have put together the top tips for a safe and happy festive season online:

1. SHOP, SHOP, SHOP -

- If something seems too much of a bargain, it's probably poor quality or doesn't even exist.
- Always check payment pages are secure, and log out when you've finished shopping online.
- If possible use online retailers / brands that you are aware of and trust. For major brands always go to the official website to find a list of authorised sellers.

2. AUCTION BARGAIN ... OR NOT? –

- When making a purchase from an auction website, use insured payment methods like PayPal and never do a bank transfer to people you don't know.
- Do all you can to check the seller or buyers are authentic. And look out for fake goods: they're illegal and cost livelihoods and can be dangerous.

3. JUST THE TICKET –

- Only look at tickets from a reputable website that is secure (showing padlock) and before buying, do an internet search for reviews.
- Avoid entering your bank or credit card details on public or shared computers.
- Never pay for the tickets by way of money transfer.

4. COME FLY AWAY... -

- Whether you're planning a break at Christmas or next year, make sure the holiday or flight is genuine by researching it thoroughly, and check travel agents for an ABTA/ATOL number.
- Always pay with a credit card; if they don't accept, don't buy from them.
- Research the internet and consider the reviews of the company / person you wish to use before booking your trip.

5. CHRISTMAS E-CARDS

- If you receive an anonymous e-card, better to play it safe and delete the e-mail. Many are genuine, however cyber-criminals have been known to create their own version which may contain a virus that will embed itself into your computer.
- Use a reputable anti-virus product on your electronic advice.
- If you believe that your electronic device has been infected, switch it off and disconnect from the internet to prevent further information being stolen.

6. WHO'S ASKING? –

Scam emails, calls, texts and posts are getting cleverer and you're bound to get some over Christmas. Think twice before you get talked into anything, however busy you are.

7. YOUR PASSWORD IS YOURS. KEEP IT THAT WAY! –

Passwords that are easy to guess, that you use for more than one account or that you share with others, are a no-no!

8. SECURELY CONNECTED? –

Secure Wi-Fi is vital for your privacy. At home, check your router security settings. Out and about, never use free Wi-Fi hotspots when what you're doing is private.

9. GREAT OFFER, OR SUBSCRIPTION TRAP? –

Don't sign up for 'free' or 'low-cost' trial goods without thoroughly reading the small print. You could be signing up for massive direct debits.

10. MOBILE PAYMENTS

- Do not save passwords or personal / financial information onto your mobile device unless it is absolutely necessary. Make sure the phone is password protected.
- If stolen, most mobile devices have the software to wipe all data from their memory remotely – learn how this works.
- Do not leave your Bluetooth switched on.

11. DATING / ROMANCE FRAUD

Many singletons will be making a New Year resolution to find their ideal partner, and signing up to an online dating website. This can be a great way to find true love, but you also need to be on the lookout for fraudster trying to wind your affection.

- Guard your privacy when chatting online and be selective with the information you provide about yourself.
- Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust.
- Trust your instincts, if something feels wrong take steps to protect yourself.
- Recommend dating locations are in public and a friend is told where you will be?

CRIME EXCEPTIONS

These figures are based on an evaluation of data, over a two year rolling period. Using this data we can predict what figure is the average that should be reported in a specific month, and what are the higher and lower parameters that we may expect. Figures outside of these parameters are classed as 'Crime Exceptions'.

For the month of October, Bradford on Avon Town has experienced 35 crimes reported to Police. This is very much in line with the predictions set for this month, and no one specific crime type is being shown as an exception.

For the month of October, the rural areas of Bradford on Avon experienced 20 crimes that were reported to Police. This is exactly in line with the predictions for the month, and no one specific crime type area has been classed as an exception.

Early November crime analysis has indicated a rise in burglary, particularly dwelling as well as non-dwelling, including within the town of Bradford on Avon, and villages such as Staverton.

With regards Dwelling Burglary, our proactive Community Tasking Team (CTT) under the direction of A/DS Anthony KING has been focused on these and is being regarded as a crime priority. Since CTT began in August 2017, they have had over 100 arrests across North and West Wiltshire for such things as burglary, drugs offences, theft and those wanted on Warrant from Courts. This is having a positive impact on the prevention and detection of crime.

A significant result to highlight by the team has been the arrest and charge of Joshua LIST for 6 Burglaries in Trowbridge, and a street robbery on a Postal Worker. He is currently remanded in prison awaiting trial in relation to these.

While much investigation work is going on behind the scenes by the team in relation to crime in the Bradford on Avon area, there is a great deal the community can do to protect themselves against being a victim of crime. Specific advice includes:

Getting into the habit of doing a routine security sweep before going to bed. This includes checking that all doors and windows, including garage doors and outbuildings are closed and locked, and any keys are removed. Also check any vehicles you own parked on the road or driveway are locked and secure. Any broken locks or insecure locks to windows and doors are repaired/replaced in a timely fashion.

“Take your keys, phones and valuable devices like tablets and laptops to bed”. Specifically do not leave keys in doors or at a point easily reached or visible through letter boxes and cat flaps etc. Keep spare keys out of view and in a secure place.

If you have a garage, consider where possible always leaving a vehicle parked in front and close up to the door way or side access gates. This limits the opportunity for criminals for open doors and gates.

“Remove it from view”. Consider what a criminal can see through your windows, doors, and in vehicles. Consider any items and valuables on view that a potential thief could easily see.

Finally, if you see suspicious activity, please report it using the appropriate means.

OTHER INFORMATION

Bradford Priorities – Priorities are raised and discussed at our regular “Weekly Tasking Meeting”.

Issues that have come into recent focus are crime and ASB around the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Towpath between the Old Beehive (bridge) on Trowbridge Road and into the centre of Bradford town and the lock area. There have been several reports of thefts of pedal cycles from narrow boats, and several incidents of anti-social behavior along the Towpath, specifically towards Bailey’s Barn Car Park and Frome Road Bridge. The Community Coordinator is in direct contact with key members of the boating fraternity and keen to tackle the issues. We have requested high visibility “Pulse Patrols” in the locations at key times from all of the CPT.

Wiltshire Police is currently involved in the National “Firearms Surrender” Campaign. Between 13th - 26th November 2017. The Police want to collect as many guns as possible during the campaign. Trowbridge is one of the 6 designated Police Stations in Wiltshire taking part.

Attendance at meetings – It will come as no surprise to hear that Police resources are somewhat stretched, but we are continually striving to try to meet the needs of our community groups and to balance this out against other competing work demands. Where it is possible we will always do our very best to be represented at the Area Board meetings and Town Council meetings by either the Sector Inspector or a Community Coordinator. All other Parish Councils and Residents groups should be attended by the PCSO for that individual area when they are on duty and free of other commitments. In our rural areas we often have over 5 villages that are under the jurisdiction of 1 PCSO, and with their shift pattern mainly consisting of day shifts during the working week this does make it very difficult to guarantee their attendance at every meeting. If there is a specific issue that you wish to raise at one of your meetings then please do get in touch beforehand so that we can try to allocate someone to attend or to at least try to give you some extra information relating to it. However, you should ALL receive a written report on a monthly basis as an absolute minimum, so if your group isn’t currently receiving them then please get in touch with CPTWestWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or with your local PCSO.

We have had a changeover in staff carrying out the Community Coordinator role. Following the departure of Alex Trombetta who accepted a position within the National Crime Agency (he informs us that he is doing very well and enjoying it so far!) we then saw PC Amy Hardman step in to the role. Amy was expected to be with us for a few more months but after successfully passing the promotion process earlier in the year she has been offered a Sergeants role and so will be leaving us to head up her own shift of Officers in Swindon imminently. And so this leaves us to introduce to you our new Coordinator, PC Lee Pelling. Lee comes in to the role having been working within West Wiltshire Community Police Team since it was first trialed. He brings with him a huge wealth of experience having also previously been a Community Beat Manager in Bradford on Avon and in Trowbridge for over 11 years. He understands the importance of multi-agency work and is looking forward to taking on the new role. We would like to thank Alex and Amy for their work so far, and to wish Lee the best of starts as Community Coordinator.

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...

<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

CONTACTS

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