

Corsham Police June 2009

Sergeant's message

Corsham area continues to enjoy a relatively low level of crime and we are working in partnership with our colleagues from the new Wiltshire council and local town and parish councils to offer an accessible and efficient service to all members of our communities.

We have had several positive arrests in recent weeks and will continue to deal robustly and effectively with crimes and issues that affect all of the community.

Alex Reid
Sergeant – Corsham Police

Priorities & ongoing activity

Corsham Town (covering Easton, Westrop and environs)

1. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** - Martingate Centre, Mansion House Mews, Springfield Recreation Park and Alexander Terrace Recreation park.
2. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** - Underage drinking Town centre.

The Martingate Centre and other antisocial issues around the town have reduced to a large degree due to regular patrols by Officers and effective action by way of education of youths concerned, their parents and in some cases enforcement.

Seizures of alcohol from minors have reduced as effective local Policing has spread the word amongst the younger element that it will not be tolerated.

The better weather tends to encourage antisocial behaviour and I would ask that any nuisance matters are reported to enable us to build a picture of where particular problems lay and target our patrols effectively.

There are still complaints of youths gathering on the recreation park playing field especially at weekends and local Police will continue patrols in the area and continue to monitor activity during the lighter evenings.

There has been a recent dwelling burglary in Pickwick where jewellery was stolen, please be aware of your household security and if away remember to set house alarms and notify neighbours of your absence.

Two local men have been arrested for theft of lead off of several commercial premises within the town centre. This is an offence that is becoming more common and causes not only financial loss but disruption to businesses whilst expensive weatherproofing repairs are carried out.

Wiltshire Police were ably assisted in the arrest by our colleagues in the Ministry of Defence Police stationed locally and from local residents who called in two men who were acting suspiciously. I would like to pass on our thanks for their valuable assistance.

A number of successful drugs warrants have also been executed across the town, resulting in the arrest of numerous individuals and the seizure of illegal drugs, money and paraphernalia. We will continue to robustly act on information received and target drug dealers within the community to ensure that their activities are disrupted and reduce the associated crimes that are often connected to this type of lifestyle.

Corsham South (Covering Lacock, Neston, Gastard, Notton)

1. **SPEEDING** – Westwells Road

2. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR and CRIMINAL DAMAGE** – Lacock

Roads Policing and local Officers continue to carry out targeted speed checks within the area and this will continue for the foreseeable future as speeding concerns continue to be raised within the community.

Antisocial behaviour in Lacock has reduced after several drivers were dealt with for various offences including having their vehicles seized whilst being used in an antisocial manner.

PC Ball is the local community beat manager and will ensure that the situation is monitored over the coming weeks.

A local male from the Corsham area was arrested following a number of burglaries throughout the Lacock area that targeted business and commercial premises recently. He has admitted a number of offences and is currently awaiting sentencing at Court.

Corsham North (covering Colerne, Box, Rudloe and Biddestone)

1. **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** – Colerne village.

2. **DISTRACTION BURGLARY** – Box

In recent weeks there has been a spate of criminal damages caused to motor vehicles within Colerne village. This has included scratches to the bodywork and tyres being slashed.

If you have suffered similar damage and not yet reported the matter or have any information as to the identity of the persons responsible then please report it, anonymously if you prefer via the Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Enquiries are ongoing in an effort to identify the persons responsible.

Antisocial behaviour in Colerne has increased again. Police presence within the village has been increased and several individuals have been spoken to in an effort to reduce these issues.

There has been a distraction type offence in Box where three males claiming to be from the water board attempted to enter the home of an elderly couple with a false story of checking the pipes.

Thankfully the intended victims were alert to the scam on this occasion and thwarted the males who left empty handed.

This is a despicable offence where elderly and vulnerable members of the community are targeted.

If you or your family are elderly, please remember all officials and employees of organisations these days carry identity and if they cannot verify who they are please do not allow them access and contact the Police.

There have been incidents of antisocial behaviour within Biddestone village, patrols have been increased and we will continue to target those responsible.

Chippenham Rural

1. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – Kington Langley
2. **SPEEDING** – Castle Combe
3. **SPEEDING** – Ford and North Wraxall

There has been a distraction burglary within Kington Langley that occurred during the first week of June where several hundred pounds were stolen from an elderly victim.

As with the Box offence these are particularly unpleasant crimes that target the vulnerable and elderly members of our communities and often involve bogus individuals claiming to be from the Water board or Council.

Please remain vigilant should you see any suspicious persons or vehicles in the area and if in doubt report them to either your Neighbourhood Policing Team or the Wiltshire Police general number on 0845 408 7000 and as always please check identification which they are required to have upon them.

A number of cannabis plants were seized from a wooded area in Kington Langley, at this time no one has yet been identified as being connected with these, however enquiries are continuing and the seizure will at least caused disruption to the offending party.

Youths have been congregating in the Slaughterford area recently and there is some intelligence that this may be linked to drug related matters.

Police will continue patrols and stop checks in the village and again, if in doubt please report any activity that appears suspicious.

Neighbourhood Watch

As mentioned in my report, Distraction burglaries and bogus officials are once again on the agenda in Corsham. I would actively urge and encourage you all to ensure that you have adequate security and locks installed on ALL outbuildings. You provide the thief with such easy pickings if left insecure.

Please check on elderly and vulnerable neighbours and confirm identification of any unexpected callers especially from utility companies such as water. Genuine utility company officials will not be offended if you ask for identification and often encourage people to check their identity with their companies.

Do not allow people to 'hold' you on the doorstep if other parts of your property such as the back or side door are insecure. Make sure no-one else enters your house when you are talking to someone at the door.

Be aware of people calling door to door offering services such as roof repairs, gardening work and driveway maintenance. Be sure to check out their reputation with agencies such as trading standards. Agree a price **before** any work is carried out and agree with the contractor that any additional or unexpected costs are agreed **before** work is carried out. **If in doubt ask a friend or relative to be present in negotiations.**

Legislation provides a cancellation or cooling off period. There are five pieces of legislation covering this under consumer protection. It allows a customer to cancel without financial penalty. Be aware of your rights and be wary if a sales person or representative does not tell you your rights under this legislation.

Likewise with the summer holidays fast approaching and thoughts of going away for the day or holidays; Please be security conscious. Speak with a neighbour, ask them to keep an eye on your property, arrange for post/deliveries to be collected and not left on the doorstep, and if possible arrange for lights to be turned on and off in the later evening and curtains drawn and opened. Make sure window locks are locked. Don't leave spare keys in a place that is visible to any potential burglar. These types of measures really can make a difference in protecting your home, and not leaving it vulnerable by drawing attention to the fact that it unoccupied.

Neighbourhood Watch is an easy way of being part of your community and ensuring that everyone works together to reduce the likelihood of a crime occurring.

Anyone interested in joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is welcome to make contact with the NPT Team and we will pass your details onto one of the Community Area co-ordinators.

When providing information, please make sure you remain safe and don't put yourself into any danger. Information that is particularly useful to the Police should include: What has happened, times, dates, locations, descriptions of those involved. Direction of travel and vehicle registration numbers and descriptions. Please remember that you can always phone anonymously should you so wish.

Please don't have nightmare's.....

Rouge Traders jailed for 10 months

This month two rouge traders who had been calling door to door for gardening work were jailed for 10 months by Swindon Crown Court for carrying out shoddy work in Corsham.

The court were told of how the pair from Thingley intimidated the householder after initially offering to carry out gardening work for £200. After 45 minutes work their costs escalated to £500. The men returned on three further occasions charging £500 each time until the police were alerted by the householder's bank manager. They were arrested when they attempted to charge £1,500 for some further work.

Both pleaded guilty to fraud and were ordered to pay £2,000 in compensation.

Contact details - Telephone 0845 408 7000 ext 733 817

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PC Mandie Ball, PCSO's Charles Campbell & Val Wagstaff.

Chippenham Rural NPT

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