

Priorities

Burglary remains a key priority and focus for us although in the month of November I can happily report that reports are low and your community remains a safe place. Community resilience is key to this so my thanks to everyone for remaining vigilant. Seasonally this time of year we do expect an increase due to greater opportunity with houses being full of Christmas presents so please take extra care securing your houses during the day.

The festive season is now in full swing, make sure Santa is the only stranger entering your home! The festive season can mean burglary season. As this time of year can be so busy it's easy to forget things and become distracted.

- When out shopping don't leave presents in your vehicle it takes seconds for someone to grab them from your vehicle, and never leave your keys in the car.
- Hide your presents until Christmas day, displaying presents under the tree in full view could prove too tempting to an opportunist burglar.
- If you are going away, be cautious when using social media such as Facebook – do you really want to advertise that your home is empty.
- Use timer switches on lamps and if you feel you can, ask your neighbours to keep an eye on place, you could even invite them to park on your drive.
- Dispose of boxes and rubbish discreetly. Leaving boxes outside will give away the fact that you have new and valuable items in the house.

Rural crime: GPS dome and screens were stolen overnight last weekend from John Deere tractors. We ask the rural community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity as well as taking security measures if you own this type of equipment.

Festive party season advice

Many of us will be attending parties, and enjoying the Christmas and New Year cheer. Please remember to:

- Drink sensibly and stay with your friends and plan in advance how you will get home.
- Save the number of a licensed taxi firm in your mobile phone.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers and never leave your drink unattended.
- Avoid walking alone through dark or unsafe places (men as well as women).
- Keep your belongings with you and your valuables out of sight.

DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE! Remember you may still be over the limit the morning after.

You said... we did

A drugs warrant was executed in Springfield Road and the discussion on Facebook created a lot of public interaction with a mixture of opinions but generally very positive for the Neighbourhood Teams efforts. Keep the information coming in on any drug activity no matter where it is.

Theft from vehicles at beauty spot car parks

The team ran a two day anti-beauty spot theft operation deploying plain clothed and uniform officers as well as using ANPR capability. The bad news is that nobody was arrested but on the plus side crime was reduced as no offences were reported. We continue to work with the local rural community and National Trust to make these parking areas safer. Please remember not to leave anything in your vehicles.

Vulnerable/elderly people at Christmas

Throughout the year we identify people who might be vulnerable and isolated during routine patrols and deployments. They become part of a list we call VERA which we keep up to date with contact details. As a nice gesture the community/shops will make up a Christmas hamper which is then delivered with our help. Please help us to reduce loneliness by identifying anyone you might see in your neighbourhood who doesn't have a good support network.

What the team have been doing

On Saturday 1st December we joined forces with the Wantage Neighbourhood Action Group and knocked on doors at the new Letcombe Fields estate to sign residents up to Thames Valley Alerts (www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) so that they can receive crime updates for the area and promoting our Facebook site (www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale). Please like and follow us so that we can keep your up to date with what is happening in our area. You may also be able to help with witness appeals and sharing information.

PC Sarah Merritt ran a Community Safety Partnership funded training day last month with Papyrus. Schools, partner agencies, youth projects and charities attended to learn more about suicide prevention, mental health and wellbeing for young people. The day was a success and more training dates are being arranged.

The Neighbourhood Team took part in the Wantage Remembrance Day parade and were honoured to lay a Wreath on behalf of Thames Valley Police.

Please get in touch/follow us using the following:

E-mail: WantageandGroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Phone: 101

Always phone 999 in an emergency

