



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Test Valley South Newsletter

This month ...

March 2022

Firstly, apologies for the short delay in producing this newsletter. Secondly, unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye to a couple of colleagues last month. PCSO Craig left to pursue a different avenue and Sgt Rich Taylor has taken up a new post as a dog section Sgt and we wish them both best of luck in their new ventures. A new Sgt has been appointed and we are just awaiting his arrival shortly but in the meantime we are in the very capable hands of Acting Sgt Tim Allen.

There has been lots happening and here are a couple of examples:

We had been experiencing some ASB from a vehicle in the Tytherley area involved in suspected poaching. Tristan and I were able to track down the owner and give suitable words of advice and actions that would be taken should they return to the area.

A warrant was executed by PC James and the team in early March. The suspect was arrested, a search of the premises was conducted and the investigation is currently on-going.

Tristan recovered a stolen Defender which was also seized for forensic evidence as well as a motorbike which had been dumped and left in a hedge without number plates.

Marie attended a careers day along with Zaliha who is the positive action co-ordinator with Hampshire Constabulary. Students from several secondary schools attended and spoke to us and other employers and colleges about working for us in the future. If you have children who are interested in Policing and would like more information about the cadets, please visit <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/policy-forces/hampshire-constabulary/areas/careers/careers/volunteer-police-cadets/> for anyone aged 13-17yrs old. It offers great training opportunities and gives young people excellent skills for life.



Our new rural Ranger....



Meet the team...Left to right - PC James Batt, PC Tristan Pugh, PC Vern Gook, PCSO Marie Stubbington



Keep up to date

Facebook and twitter are a great way to keep in touch and up to date with your local neighbourhood team. Follow us on:

Facebook: Test Valley Cops

Twitter: @TestVlyRuralPol

Hampshire Alerts is a free messaging service keeping you up to date with events and incidents via www.hampshirealert.co.uk

Get in touch

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via www.hampshire.police.uk where you can report, tell us about, apply, request or give compliments.

Alternatively crimes can be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

As part of Community Safety Week PCSO Marie joined the Choose Your Own Path Team on their Drugs Bus at several schools. They reached out to around 150 young people who took part in activities aimed at raising awareness around County Lines and the dangers of drugs and the lifestyle and the behaviour surrounding that lifestyle. There were many professionals involved including TVBC, Fire, Social Workers as well as teachers, parents and carers



Neighbourhood Priorities

Theft from sheds and outbuildings: Please remain vigilant of items stored within your property. Pushbikes and power tools are often the items of choice but anything they can take easily, that is of value, will tempt them. Please lock, padlock and/or alarm your outbuildings and security mark items wherever possible, so if or when they are found we can return them to their rightful owners.

Bike register is a national database whereby you can add your frame & any serial numbers as well as make, model, colour and photos so if your bike gets lost or stolen there is a greater chance of getting it back. It is free to log your bike and if you would like security stickers there is a small charge. Please see more at [The National Cycle Database | BikeRegister](#) if you have access to the internet or call 01689 660200 if not.



Fraud and scams: Cold Calls via your home phone often cause a lot of alarm and distress for those who are vulnerable. Calls by scammers claiming to be from your bank, HMRC, DVLA, NHS, etc are now more commonplace. We wanted to give you some advice and warning about these type of calls. There is lots of advice out there and I have included a link below from 'The little book of big scams' which is produced by the Metropolitan Police and has a lot of information on various different types of scams. Action Fraud details are on the page opposite.

[The Little Book of Big Scams – 4th Edition \(thamesvalley.police.uk\)](#)

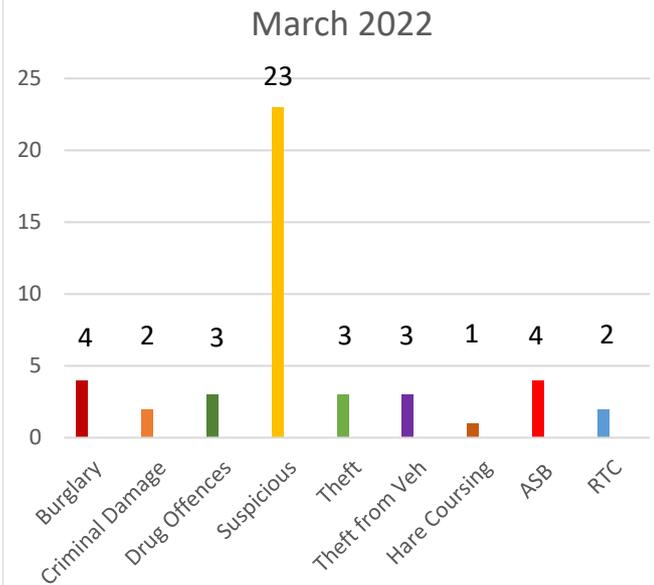
Age UK is the countrys leading charity dedicated to helping everyone make the most of later life. They provide companionship, advice and support for older people who need it most. Age UK provides information and advice through its free [national advice line \(0800 678 1602 - 8am-7pm, 365 days a year\)](#), on their [website](#), and through its network of [local charities](#).

Using call blocking facilities on your home landline is available from your call providers such as BT or similar. Please make contact with them to see what they can offer. All should offer a free option. Answer machines which have a caller I.D facility are also a helpful option as most scam callers will not leave a message (this will not stop all scams coming through)

April dates:

- **April 14:** International Moment of Laughter Day. April 15th - Titanic Remembrance Day **April 17:** Good Friday **April 19:** Easter Sunday **April 19:** Wear Pajamas to Work Day **April 20:** Easter Monday **April 22nd** – Earth Day **April 23rd:** St. Georges Day
- National Volunteer Week (April 17-23)
- Autism Awareness Month

Crime & Crime Prevention



The Blue Lamp Trust runs the **BOBBY SCHEME** which provides **free** home security visits, long-life smoke alarms and advice to vulnerable people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, particularly the elderly and victims of burglary and domestic abuse. For more information and security advice please either call **0300 7770157** or visit: www.bluelamptrust.org.uk.

Immobilise helps Combat the sale of stolen gadgets & valuables; alert the second-hand trade & publicly checkable stolen goods database CheckMEND if an item goes missing. Follow the link to take a look at the website: www.immobilise.com

Scam advice: [General Advice | Take Five \(takefive-stopfraud.org.uk\)](#)

[A-Z of fraud | Action Fraud - www.actionfraud.police.uk](#) or call them directly on **03001232040**.

Interview with PC James Batt...

What made you join the Police? I joined Hampshire Constabulary in 2016 as a PCSO at 19 years old. I've always had a passion for wanting to help people, and knew that the Police was the career path I wanted to take in life.

What has been the biggest change? Probably the biggest change in each Police Force. Every Police Force works very differently, and has their own policing priorities.

What has been your best success? I was called to a female in distress on a railway bridge. I was the first officer on scene, and had to make difficult decisions about how to manage the ever changing risk that presented itself. The female was hanging off the wrong side of the bridge, threatening to jump. After about 30 minutes, of trying to engage with the female, I was able to talk her down from the bridge. The female later told me, had I not got to her when I did, she was certainly going to jump.

What advice would you give yourself if you could go back in time to when you started? To get life experience before joining. The job is a vocation and shift work is not for everyone. This will give you the skills and experience when it comes to handling the wide variety of the community and calls we deal with and give you the resilience required to do your job well.

Due to some increases in specific crimes I have added another page dedicated to specific crime prevention advice. We appreciate that not everyone has the technology to click on links so this is offering both options.

THEFT OF FUEL: With the price of fuel rising to all new highs please remain ever vigilant. [Rural crime prevention | Hampshire Constabulary](#)

Locks: A good thief will come equipped with a limited range of tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglar tools - the bolt cropper! Due to their design, close shackle padlocks have very little of the metal hoop (shackle) exposed and bolt croppers cannot get a good grip. Remember that buying a padlock is like buying a car the more you pay the better the quality you get and the longer it will last.

Monitors: Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. These gauges can be located in the kitchen or perhaps a utility room to warn of any potential problem. There are two or three different versions on the market at the moment and cost between £70 and £200.

Security lighting: Security lights can have a very positive effect and make any property a much harder target for the thief. Its not always necessary to floodlight the area with high power beams, as a more subtle level of lighting may be all that is needed. Low energy "dusk til' dawn lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity. This type of light can be both effective and inexpensive. High powered lights can be used but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours or road users.

Defensive Planting: This is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge. The smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could help the police identify the offender. Prickly shrubs and bushes can, if planted around your tank, provide an effective and decorative thief-proof barrier.

Fencing: Fences and walls can also make life difficult for the thief. A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank but it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need access to fill the tank. A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point across the top of this wall or fence can further improve security.

Theft of Catalytic Converters: There are several options and companies who offer kits such as those below. Hilliers Gardens have seen a sharp rise of thefts recently.

[Catalytic Converter Theft - How to prevent it \(securedbydesign.com\)](#)

Catalytic Converter Theft has been in the news recently, the market price of precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium that are used in catalytic converters has risen sharply recently and looks set to continue. This has resulted in a **64% increase** in the theft of catalytic converters during 2020.

Cars that are most often targeted are hybrid vehicles, as these vehicles have two power sources, so the catalytic converter is used less frequently. The metals are less likely to corrode meaning the converters are in a better condition, so they are worth more and therefore more attractive to thieves.

On diesel cars, the diesel oxidation catalyst is often integrated with the Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) and there is evidence that these are being stolen for their scrap value too.

Hybrid cars, vans and Sports Utility vehicles ('SUV's') are particularly at risk, as the ride height makes access to the exhaust system beneath them easier. However, thieves can always jack up a car with a small trolley jack and quickly remove catalytic converters from any vehicle, even in the daytime. Honda's and Toyota appear to be the choice of vehicle in this area but this is not always the case.

The offenders also use high-vis clothing or disguise themselves as motor professionals during the daytime making it easier for catalytic converter theft.



New dates for Beat Surgeries in April. Please do come along and meet PCSO Marie and partner agencies on the following dates:

[Awbridge](#) on Tues 26th 9.30-11am - All Saints Church

[Wellow](#) on Weds 27th 1pm-2.30pm - Outside Lower Common Road Stores in

[Braishfield](#) on Thurs 28th 11am – 12.30pm – Braishfield Village Shop,

[West Tytherley](#) on Friday 29th 9.30-11am – West Tytherley Stores, West Tytherley.

[Ampfield](#) on Saturday 7th May at Ampfield Market