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Library image, posed picture

Arrests in distraction burglary swoop

Officers from the regional crime team Zephyr arrested 10 people in a day-long series of warrants in connection with distraction burglaries, fraud and money laundering across the South West.

The seven men and three women were arrested from locations including Winterbourne, Bradley Stoke, Bristol and Swansea.

All were later bailed pending further enquiries.

Police also seized a quantity of cash, cannabis and jewellery after searching the properties.

Zephyr officers were supported by officers from the Winterbourne neighbourhood team, South Wales Police, the Metropolitan Police Service, HMRC, DWP and officers from Op Liberal - the national distraction burglary intelligence unit.

Detective Inspector Craig Holden said:

"This action shows that Zephyr will continue to target offenders who prey on some of the most vulnerable members of our societies.

"The message is clear – you will not get away with this sort of crime in the South West. We continue to work with our partner agencies to bring distraction burglars and fraudsters to justice.

"Not only will offenders be placed before the courts – we will also seek to recover their assets through the Proceeds of Crime Act."

Visit www.zephyrsouthwest.com for more.

To deter doorstep crooks, remember: if you're not sure, don't open the door.

Always use the door chain and ask to see identification before letting any caller into your home.

Ask your neighbourhood team for advice or visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Severnside, Stokes & Villages

Covering the areas of: Almondsbury, Bradley Stoke, Easter Compton, Frenchay, Hambrook, Little Stoke, Piling, Severn Beach, Stoke Gifford and Winterbourne.



Have your say

Visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk to see the issues local people have told us matter most, propose new priorities, find out when your next community meeting is and contact your neighbourhood team. Alternatively contact them by calling 101 or e-mailing ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk.



Stoke Gifford

Contact your Neighbourhood Team (below) call 101 or e-mail ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PC Mark Graham



PCSO Clare Evans



PCSO Dean Sobey

Door-to-door patrol

Neighbourhood police and South Gloucestershire Council officers went door-to-door in August to ask people living in Great Swanmoor Close and Cobb Court, Stoke Gifford, about anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The council ASB Team and neighbourhood police wanted to find out about any issues residents had and to make sure people knew who to contact for help.

PCSO Dean Sobey said: "People have told us they are bothered by young people riding noisy motorcycles and mini motos

without helmets. We have increased our patrols and we and the council ASB team are working with local housing providers to find ways of tackling the problem."

Police have already seized a mini moto belonging to a local youth after he ignored a warning about its nuisance use. The machine was later scrapped.

PCSO Clare Evans said: "We will warn anyone we see using a vehicle in a manner likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance and if they are caught again we can seize the vehicle."



Could you help keep the Stokes safe?

Police are seeking new volunteers to help keep Little Stoke and Stoke Gifford safe.

For two years community volunteers have helped police target their patrols by identifying anti-social behaviour hotspots.

Neighbourhood PC Mark Graham said: "The volunteers have made a real difference to their community but of course people do move on. We need a few more people to come forward to help."

Volunteers are vetted and trained to patrol in pairs identifying potential ASB hotspots so that police can attend.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the neighbourhood team at Filton Police Station by calling 101 or e-mailing ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Wishing you a scare-free Halloween

Here's our guide for a safe and happy Halloween and Bonfire Night:

Trick or treaters

- Do stay in a group
- Do tell someone where you are going, who with and when you'll be back
- Do make sure you can be seen – wear something bright or reflective
- Do respect other people's property
- Don't call on homes showing a 'sorry no trick or treat' poster
- Don't go into strangers' homes
- It is illegal for an under-18 to have a firework in a public place (Fireworks Act 2003)
- It is illegal to throw a firework in a public place (Explosives Act 1875)

Parents

- Do supervise younger children
- Do remind teenagers to respect others' property
- Do encourage children to call only on their friends
- Do make sure you know where they're going, who with and when they'll be back

Shopkeepers: Don't sell eggs and flour to young people and remember selling fireworks to under-18s is an offence.

Householders: If you don't want trick or treaters to call, you can download a poster from www.avonandsomerset.police.uk to print off and display in your window.

You can also visit us on Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, through your mobile or TV service or via our Police Kiosks



Post Office thief convicted

A man who snatched cash from the till at Pilning Post Office and two other stores in Charfield and Berkeley in July appeared in court in August.

The 43-year-old was given a suspended prison sentence, ordered to pay compensation and put on a six-month drug rehabilitation programme by magistrates.



Watch out!

The nights are drawing in, giving opportunist burglars chance to operate under the cover of darkness.

If it's dark before you get home, you can deter burglars by:

- Locking unattended windows and doors
- Leaving a light or radio on a timer switch
- Fitting low-energy security lighting
- Fitting and using a security alarm
- Joining Neighbourhood Watch
- Marking property with your postcode and registering it at www.immobilise.com
- Drawing the curtains and locking up when you get in so thieves can't see in or sneak in.

Visit the police website or call your neighbourhood team on 101 for more advice.

Hall arrests

Six young men were arrested after Pilning Village Hall was damaged one night July.

There was extensive damage to the hall, including smashed windows and light fittings and cupboard doors ripped off.

At around the same time a neighbouring house had a window smashed and a car parked nearby was vandalised.

Three men aged 16, two aged 17 and an 18-year-old, all from Pilning, Easter Compton or Severn Beach, were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and burglary. They were bailed until September for further enquiries.

Dial 101 for police

We're launching a new non-emergency number that is quick and simple so it's even easier for you to give us a call.

From September 19, Avon and Somerset Police's non-emergency number will change from 0845 456 7000 to **101**.

It's part of a national programme, which will see all police non-emergency numbers change to 101 by the end of the year and mean that you can contact any police force by using one number.

Although 999 is well-recognised, a recent national survey found that only half of the public knew the number to call if they wanted to speak to their local police about non-emergency issues.

Chief Superintendent Dave Hayler, Head of Communications, said: "This new number will not change the way we respond to non-urgent calls, but it will mean members of the public will find it easier to contact us as the phone number is more memorable and will be used across the country."

Calls to 101 from landlines and mobile phones will cost 15p per call irrespective of its duration. In an emergency the public should still call 999, such as when a crime is in progress, when there is danger to life or violence is being used or threatened.

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired will be able to **textphone 18001 101**.

Use 999: In an emergency – if someone is at risk of being hurt or a crime is happening there and then

Use 101 to:

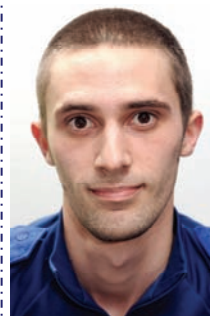
- Report a crime
- Contact local officers
- Get crime prevention advice
- Make an appointment with a police officer
- Or for any other non-emergency

Sevenside

To contact your Neighbourhood Team (pictured below) call 101 or e-mail ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PC Steve Bird



PCSO Chris Baker

Winterbourne

To contact your Neighbourhood Team (pictured below) call 101 or e-mail ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PC Claire Reeves



PCSO Jackie Liminton



PCSO John Hitchings



Avon and Somerset Police Authority wants to hear your views

We would like to know what you think about your local police, where resources should go and how much you are prepared to pay towards policing. We would like residents from across Avon & Somerset to be part of focus groups on the police budget. If you would like to take part call 01275 816377 or email feedback@aspola.org.uk.

Remember – changes to the way the police are held to account are planned with Police Authorities being abolished and replaced with Police and Crime Commissioners. For the latest information go to www.aspola.org.uk

Crime doesn't pay

A Bradley Stoke man who admitted possessing 47 grams of cannabis, worth £231, with intent to supply has been ordered to hand over cash under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

In December Bristol Crown Court jailed him, and in June the court ordered him to pay £653.85 within six months or face a further prison term.



Bradley Stoke

To contact your Neighbourhood Team (pictured below) call 101 or e-mail ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PC Claire Fletcher



PC Steve Palmer



PCSO Paul Baxter



PCSO Kirsty Flicker



PCSO Jason Green

Help us to find the best on the beat

Do you know a brilliant police officer on your beat? Has someone made a real difference to your life or got great results for the whole community?

The search to find the "Best on the Beat" has begun as nominations for the annual Community Policing Awards are now officially open.

Organised by Avon and Somerset Police Authority and Constabulary, the awards recognise outstanding work of Neighbourhood Policing teams and individuals.

Nomination forms are available from local Beat Teams, police stations and libraries or online at www.communitypolicingawards.org.uk. Don't forget the closing date, November 21.

Disorder – three arrested

Three young men were arrested after an incident in Merryweather Close, Bradley Stoke, in June.

Police had introduced plainclothes as well as uniformed patrols of the area in response to complaints of anti-social behaviour.

An unmarked police car pulled into the road and was approached by a group of young men. When the officers identified themselves there was a scuffle and three men were arrested.

A 21-year-old man from Bradley Stoke has appeared before Northavon Magistrates charged with possession of cannabis and a public order offence. He was bailed and is due back in court in October.

A 17-year-old man has appeared before Northavon Youth Court charged with assaulting a PC. He was also bailed to appear again in October.

A 19-year-old Bristol man who faced Northavon Magistrates charged with two counts of assaulting a PC and a public order offence has been bailed to return to court in September.

Hedgerows arrest

People living in the Hedgerows, Bradley Stoke, reported that their homes were being pelted with rotten fruit and veg.

It was happening during June and July. Towards the end of July a 22-year-old man from Bradley Stoke was arrested for public nuisance. He remains on police bail pending further enquiries.



Safer streets

Volunteers across the area are helping to keep the streets safe.

Speed Watch volunteers give up a few hours each month to monitor traffic speeds in their towns and villages. Police then send warning letters to the registered keepers of speeding vehicles.

In Winterbourne, more than 100 drivers were caught speeding along 30mph Beacon Lane since checks began in June. One motorist was travelling at 49mph.

Fifty-two letters were sent to motorists speeding in Bradley Stoke in August.

In the past eight months, volunteers found 60 drivers speeding in Almondsbury, Easter Compton and Severn Beach.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Clive Johnson said: "Speeding traffic is something many local people are concerned about. I'd like to thank our dedicated Speed Watch volunteers."

More volunteers are needed to help check local traffic speeds. If you can help, contact your local team on 101 or e-mail ssnfilton@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

If you need this document in another format

Telephone - 101

Textphone – 18001 101

or visit

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/WebsiteResources/accessibility/



Call the charity
Crimestoppers anonymously on
0800 555 111

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

*We never ask for your name
or trace your call*