

Neighbourhood Watch News

Summer 2010

Hello

Welcome to the Summer edition of NHW News.

The latest news from South Gloucestershire is that the Community Safety Department has moved!! You will now find us in the new council offices at Badminton Road, Yate.


My email address will stay the same, but please do not turn up at Severn House expecting to find us there.

Please contact me via email
bridget.whittle@avonandsomerset.police.uk
Or call me direct on 01454 864404

Bridget Whittle, Neighbourhood Watch Administrator
Safer South Glos, Badminton Road Offices, Badminton Road,
Yate, South Glos, BS37 5AF



Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

In your area 

Enter your postcode, town or street name:

Postcode / Street [view map](#)

- Contact your local team
- News and appeals
- Suggest policing priorities
- Crime statistics

[About Safer, Stronger Neighbourhoods](#)

Don't forget you can find out who your local Beat Manager and PCSO is by accessing www.avonandsomerset.police.uk typing in your postcode (see above) which will take you to your page. Details of meetings/priorities are also found there.

Don't give thieves a chance to prey – leave **NOTHING** out on display!
Don't leave anything on display in your car regardless of value - people steal first and think about value later!

Take all belongings with you when you leave the car - if you can't, lock them in the boot **BEFORE** you start your journey

Always park in a well-lit, open place.



Emergency 999

Police Non-Urgent Contact Number - 0845 456 7000

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 – call anonymously with information about crimes



Community Policing Roadshows

Calling all NHW members in the Chipping Sodbury and Yate areas, PC Giles Sutton needs YOU!

We are looking for help with our Community Policing Roadshows, which will be visiting a number of venues in the area from June.

The aims are to engage with the public, encourage feedback, publicise and promote our and other agencies work and motivate more public interaction.

If you want to help make a difference, are interested in your neighbourhood and would like to be more involved, contact Bridget Whittle

“Recognise, Reward and Recruit”

Distraction Burglary

The more dangerous and complex scams involve people pretending to be from utilities companies and asking for access to homes. They often work in pairs - with one person distracting the resident while the other is up to no good!

Be cautious

- When a stranger rings your bell.
- Don't let anybody in unless you are expecting them.
- Representatives of the water, gas and electric companies rarely make house calls without appointments.
- If there is a real gas or water emergency, police and fire brigade are likely to be present.

There are some simple precautions you can take to help ensure you don't become a victim

- Talk to people through the door, rather than opening it when they knock.
- Ask who they are before opening the door, then keep the door on the chain until you see their identification.
- Make sure your back door is closed and locked before answering your front door - thieves have been known to work in pairs, with one entering through the back while the other knocks on the front door.

Ask for identification

- If anybody comes to your door for legitimate purposes, they will have an I.D. card from the organisation they represent. Before you even speak to them, ask to see it, and keep the door on the chain while you check.
- Never leave the door open and unattended.

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Protect yourself from SCAMS

First and foremost be sceptical, remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
Take your time.

Resist pressure to make a decision right away. Read the small print and be sure you understand all the terms and conditions of an offer.

Know who you're dealing with

- Ask for full contact details, including a street address. A company website should provide the full street address for the business, not just a Post Office or mail box number.
- Contact them using details from their official website or documents. Be wary of buying from anyone who only gives an email address or mobile phone number.
- Put the firm's name into an internet search engine to see what you can find out.
- Look them up on the [Companies House website](#) to check they're a registered company.
- If you're being offered financial services, find out if they're registered with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) using the [FSA register](#).
- Don't be fooled by professional-looking websites and marketing materials.

Protect your financial information

- Never give your bank account details to someone you don't know.
- Go to the [Card Watch website](#) protect yourself against credit and debit card fraud.
- Follow basic advice for safe online shopping and banking.
- In particular, never email anyone your financial information.
- Use a credit card, you should be entitled to a refund from your card issuer of money lost through fraudulent activity - if the cash price of a single item is over £100.

To report a scam or to seek advice Call Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06



Please read

Did you know that more than a third of domestic burglaries are carried out when windows and doors have been left **open/unlocked!** Remember always keep your premises **secure**; do not leave items like **car keys, bank statements** and **laptops** on display.

Most thieves are opportunistic so by taking some practical steps, you can reduce the chances of falling victim to thieves.

Want to know more about the bigger picture; visit www.mynhw.co.uk

This site is recognised by the Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) as the official website for ALL registered Neighbourhood Watch & Home Watch members across England & Wales.

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Ever thought of Alley Gates?

Do you live in a house which has a lane running behind it?

If so, please be aware that unfortunately such lanes can offer criminals an easy access route to your property therefore, increasing the likelihood of you being a victim of burglary as well as increasing the likelihood of other crimes occurring in and around the lane such as anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, vehicle crime and graffiti.

The gating of such lanes can, in some cases, drastically reduce the likelihood of such crimes occurring and if you would like more information on how to get an alleygating scheme up and running in your area, please do not hesitate to contact your Crime Reduction Officers PC Pete Wozniak, PC Dave Ashford or PC Roger Jones on 0117 9454127. More details can be found on alleygating on the A&S police website – http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/operations_and_initiatives/alleygating.aspx



Useful Website

Though we cannot endorse a website, I have been increasingly directing people to

www.snopes.com

This website has proved to be the definitive internet reference for urban legends, rumours and misinformation!

A reminder that the non-emergency Police number is **0845 456 7000** and please if you do find yourself having to use this number, please tag your call "**Neighbourhood Watch**".

Street Signs

Your **NHW** Scheme needs to look like it is still alert and active, don't let your scheme look like it's closed this may encourage the burglar into your street. Always replace damaged/broken signs, contact Bridget Whittle.

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