



Minehead update

Unplanned/Unauthorised Music Events

With another bank holiday approaching, now would be the time to prepare against any unplanned / unauthorised music events. With this in mind, we would ask any residents with land, large driveways, warehouses, anywhere such an event could be staged at short notice, to please secure these areas when not in use and notify us immediately of any strange activity. Unusual increases in traffic in rural areas or near abandoned buildings could be a sign, as could social media activity or local posters, if you see it, again please let us know. We will be carrying out additional patrols over this period.

How to report:

You can do this on 101 if it is not an emergency, 999 in an emergency, you can also report online here:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>

Pop Up Advice Hubs

The PCSO's are hosting pop up advice hubs at regular intervals in the town. If you need advice or have a questions relating to crime prevention, personal safety, fraud/scam prevention or if you have concerns that you would like to bring to the neighbourhood policing teams attention please do come along.

Available will also be bike marking should you want to get you bikes security marked using bike register. The process takes around 5 minutes but can prove to be invaluable should your bike be stolen or go missing.

The next advice hub will be on 23rd June, from 1100 – 1200 at Wellington Square, Minehead

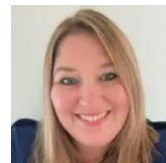
Connection Cafe

The PCSO's will be at Connection Café, Minehead Eye on Thursday 6th June 1pm – 3pm to talk about online safety and how to spot potential scams – there is a poster attached to the newsletter with further information.

Meet the Minehead Neighbourhood Policing Team



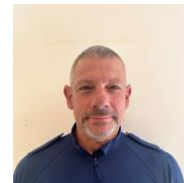
Neighbourhood Sergeant
Hayden Smith



PCSO Supervisor Katherine Williams



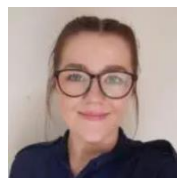
PC Steve Woodward



PCSO Mark Middleton-Smith



PCSO Melanie Cherrington-Firkins



PCSO Sammie Virgin

LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th June – 10.30am – 11am
Rhyme Time
Minehead Library

Thursday 6th June – 1pm – 3pm
Online Safety
Connection Café, Minehead Eye

Sunday 9th June – 3pm – 4pm
Bike Security Marking
Minehead Seafront opp Seaview
(Weather dependent)

Sunday 23rd June – 11am – 12noon
Pop-Up Advice Hub
Wellington Square
Minehead

Crimes in Minehead for the last 28 days

Violence Against The Person – 34

Theft – 28

Arson and Criminal Damage – 8

Public Order Offences – 16

Sexual Offences – 9

Burglary – 2

Fraud - 1

Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society – 3

Robbery – 1

Keep up to date

Facebook and Twitter are a terrific way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: [westsomersetandtauntonneighbourhoodpolicing](#)

Twitter: @ASPWestSom

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk



LOCAL PRIORITIES

Anti-Social Driving

We are receiving reports of boy racers at various locations in the Minehead area.

Action: Regular speed checks will be conducted in the area with an aim to reduce speeding vehicles, section 59's will be issued for anti-social driving styles.

Drugs

To target and hold responsible those using and supplying drugs in the area.

Action: To continue working to gain further information on those responsible for drugs in the Minehead area whilst targeting and holding accountable those we find to be involved.

ASB in town centre areas

Focusing on ASB in our town centre areas affecting residents and shops

Action: Patrols have been increased especially during the peak times at which we have been told the problems are occurring.

Shop Thefts

There are several reports regarding shop thefts at shops in Minehead. These may continue to increase due to cost of living.

Action: We are working with any stores where possible and have carried out some proactive work to ensure that suspects have been held accountable for their actions,

Home Appliance Insurance Scams

Avon and Somerset Police have identified increased reports where the public have received misleading calls convincing them to take out insurance cover or warranty on their household appliances. This is despite most appliances being covered under the standard manufacturer's warranty.

Criminals may say that your existing cover is expiring and that you need to renew. They will purport to be well known, legitimate insurers, and it might even be an insurer you have an existing policy with, making it appear more genuine.

The elderly and vulnerable are a particular target, being coerced into handing over their bank details to pay for insurance policies which often do not exist, are overpriced, or contain clauses preventing a payout should the item become damaged. Payments are often set up as direct debits, totalling hundreds of pounds per month.

See Which article for more information:

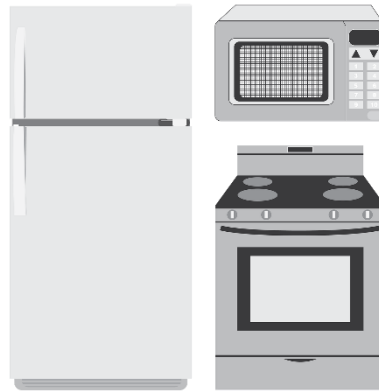
<https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/beware-cold-callers-selling-dubious-home-appliance-insurance-ayndk7n5629l>.

As a Fraud Protect Officer, I have visited people who have become victims of various types of fraud, and upon closer inspection of their bank statements, it has become apparent that they also have numerous direct debits going out for appliance cover, often for the same appliance. Unfortunately, once someone has become a victim of fraud, they are likely to be heavily targeted by fraudsters. One man was paying a total of £440 per month to cover his 8-year-old washing machine. Sadly, relatives are often only finding out that this has happened to their loved ones after they have passed away, finding years' worth of direct debits totalling thousands of pounds for fraudulent policies, sometimes, for appliances they didn't even own.

The National Fraud Strategy sets out to ban all cold calls selling financial products as part of the national crackdown on scams, and Avon and Somerset Police are keen to raise awareness.

Our advice

We are urging the public to be wary of any cold calls of this nature, or any cold calls for that matter. Calls out of the blue are always a red flag. If you are getting numerous cold calls, contact your telephone provider and enquire about a call blocker. It is also well worth spending some time looking through your bank statements and query any transactions or direct debits you don't recognise with your bank. If you do realise that you have been a victim of fraud, you can call 159 to get through to your bank's fraud department. It should also be reported to Action Fraud, the National Reporting Centre for Fraud, either over the phone (0300 123 2040) or online (<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>).





STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Workshop and talk

- Do you want to learn how to stay safe while using the internet?
- Do you know how to spot a scam?

we will be joined by local Police community support officers who will be sharing information on how to stay safe online and how to spot potential scams.

Thursday 6th June
1pm-3pm

Minehead EYE
1 Mart Rd, TA24 5BJ



Connection Cafe at Minehead Eye will be taking a three week break from 16th -30th May. We will be returning as normal from Thursday 6th June. Charlie will be at Minehead Talking Cafe on Mondays from 10am-12pm Please feel free to pop in to see him there for any help you need.

 [01643 703155](tel:01643703155)

charlie.russell@sparksomerset.org.uk

MINEHEAD
EYE