



# Williton and Watchet update

## Poaching

There have been multiple reports in the past month of Deer poaching in the Exmoor area which has spread down to the rural areas of Vellow / Stogumber which takes place at night, we ask everyone to report any unusual activity that you see. Deer poaching is the illegal or unauthorised hunting of deer. It is carried out in a variety of ways including shooting at night under spotlight and illegal hunting with dogs (more than 3). If you see this activity taking place, immediately call 999.

## Mini Police

PCSO Zack has been at St Peters School in Williton over the past few months conducting Mini Police visits to the school, the Mini Police students learn all about the police and police staff, in a session held recently the students were taken outside of the school along with the Neighbourhood Sergeant Kat conducting speed checks on motorists passing the school, the students made posters which reflected on the issues of speeding and had hands on experience with the device



## Meet the team

- PCSO 7279 Jo Dawson
- PCSO 6551 – Zack Howe



- PCSO Supervisor 8460 Katherine Williams
- Neighbourhood Sergeant Kat Forrest



## Keep up to date



Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

**Facebook:** Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing  
[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## Get in touch

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report)

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

---

## Neighbourhood drop-in

In the near future there will be more Neighbourhood drop-in sessions being held, one such area will be Williton. If there is any interest in other areas of the community that would like a drop-in session to be held monthly, please make the Neighbourhood team aware.

---

## LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Please keep a look out on our social media pages for the latest events taking place, we post in advance if we are holding a bike/trailer marking event.

You could also have a look on the rural affairs unit Facebook page for more rural updates and events that may be held in the local area.

---

## Reporting crimes

There have been plenty of posts on Facebook of people reporting crimes and suspicious activity.

To report a crime please use the proper means, if it is an emergency please call 999, if a non-emergency please call 101 or report online to

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

What constitutes an Emergency?

- Think, does this need police attendance NOW?
- Is the offender on scene?
- Is there an immediate need to safeguard someone?
- Will evidence be lost immediately if police do not attend?
- Is there an inherent danger to the public?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, please use 101 or online reporting system.

---

## Crime stats for the last 28 days

Arson & criminal damage x 5  
Burglary x 1  
Miscellaneous crimes against society x 3  
Public Order Offences x 4  
Sexual Offences x 1  
Theft x 3  
Vehicle offences x 6  
Violence against the person x 26

---

## LOCAL PRIORITIES

### Community Speedwatch

If you would like to be a participant and volunteer for such a scheme, contact the local Beat Team and we will support you in setting this up. If you are interested in becoming involved, either contact your local Parish Council, or the Neighbourhood team, & we will forward your details.

---

### Farm Watch/Horse Watch

By co-operating with each other and sharing information we can help to prevent many rural crimes from happening in the first place, making your rural community a safer and more crime-free area in which to live and work. There are a number of benefits to becoming a member of Farmwatch.

If you would like to find out more about joining Farmwatch please visit our website or contact your local beat managers by using the contact form on our beat page or by calling them on 101

---

### Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is about you and your neighbours, coming together to have a say in the issues that matter to you in your community.

---

## THE RED FLAGS OF FRAUD AND HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE

- ▶ Be wary of anyone asking for personal details over the phone, including your middle name, who you bank with, the name of your pet or even where you were born. They could be trying to guess your password/security info!
- ▶ Criminals may ask you to download a remote access tool which gives them full control, however, make it sound like they are helping you 'fix' an issue.
- ▶ A genuine person or agency should never rush or panic you.
- ▶ Fraudsters often pose as trusted officials. Be wary of any unexpected calls from organisations such as HMRC or the police.
- ▶ The police or bank would never ever ask you to withdraw and hand over money to help with an investigation, or hand over your bank card(s).
- ▶ Be wary of people offering to complete work on your home. Rogue traders will over charge for poor quality work and often don't even complete it.
- ▶ If an online love interest asks for money or gift cards, they are a fraudster. Never receive/transfer money on their behalf either – this is money laundering.
- ▶ Be extremely cautious of anyone approaching you to make an investment – it's extremely likely to be a fraud.
- ▶ A person may contact you after you have been a victim of fraud, claiming they can get your money back (for a fee of course). This is known as "Recovery Fraud".

### TAKE 5 AND TELL 2

IN ANY SCENARIO WHERE YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE COMMUNICATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED, TAKE 5 MINUTES AWAY FROM IT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF YOU, AND THEN TELL 2 PEOPLE ABOUT IT. IT'S A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE, BUT IT COULD SAVE YOU A FORTUNE.

- ✓ Always make your own checks on who you are talking to. E.g., if the caller claims to be from the police, take their name and collar number, hang up and call 101 to confirm their identity.
- ✓ When you are making your own checks, ideally use a different phone to the one the person called you on, as scammers can hold the line open. If this isn't possible, hang up and wait at least 10 minutes before dialling out.
- ✓ Fraudsters can "spoof" phone numbers to make them appear to be calling from a specific country or company (e.g., your bank).
- ✓ Think about what is being asked of you. Why am I being asked to give this information? How do I know they are who they say they are?
- ✓ Tell a family member or friend if you have had a call or interaction that you are suspicious of.
- ✓ Challenge EVERYONE! If they are genuine, they will not mind you checking who they are. Have the confidence to say no and hang up.
- ✓ Never assume a text, email, or call is genuine. Trust your instincts - if something feels wrong or too good to be true, then it probably is.
- ✓ Remember, you cannot win something you have not entered.
- ✓ Try using three random words for your passwords. E.g., 'WaterPhilosophyZebra'.
- ✓ Ensure you have up to date antivirus protection. For more information, visit [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org).
- ✓ Two-factor authentication is important, particularly on your email.
- ✓ Never click on a link within an unexpected email or text.
- ✓ Enquire about a call blocker if you are getting frequent nuisance calls.

## Practical Advice for Victims and Families



### Telephone

If you are receiving a lot of unwanted calls, speak with your telephone provider. Most providers offer products and services to block unwanted calls, such as a call blocker. You can also reduce unwanted calls by registering with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS).

Telephone: 0800 398893

Website: [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)



### Post

If you are having a problem with junk mail, it might help to register your name and address for free with the Mailing Preference Service (MPS). It has been set up by the marketing industry to help people who don't want to receive junk mail. However, it will not stop mail that originates from overseas.

Website: [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk)



### Financial Transactions

If you've supplied any bank account details, debit/credit card numbers, been asked for the 3-digit code on the back of the card or a PIN, you must contact your bank/credit card company immediately. You can also consider obtaining a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) for property and finance.

Website: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/lasting-power-of-attorney-forms](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/lasting-power-of-attorney-forms)



### Identity Fraud

Consider checking your credit report to see if your identity has been used. You can use a credit agency such as Experian or Equifax. If your identity has been compromised, CIFAS is a fraud prevention service used by financial companies and public authorities to share information about fraudulent activity. For a small fee, they will ensure that anyone applying for credit in your name is automatically double checked: [www.cifas.org.uk](http://www.cifas.org.uk)



### Online Advice

The internet has broken boundaries for fraudsters, enabling them to enhance their methods and reach out to potential victims worldwide. Ensure that you have different passwords for all of your accounts and use 2-factor authentication where possible. Using three random words creates a strong password. Ensure your computer virus protection is up to date. NEVER allow someone to remotely access your device as a result of an unexpected call. For more advice, visit: [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)



### The Little Book of Big Scams

This booklet is a general guide to many of the scams currently operating in the UK. It's an interesting read and gives handy tips to protect yourself from fraud. There is also an online version which can be accessed using the link below

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/32291114/little-book-of-big-scams.pdf>