



HONITON NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM NEWSLETTER



ROMANCE FRAUD

Romance scams involve people being duped into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship. They will manipulate, persuade, and exploit individuals so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells. The requests may be highly emotive and include requests for emergency medical care or ask for money to pay for the transport costs, so they are able to visit.

These relationships will be built over time and in some cases, victims have lost their life savings by giving money to someone they believed they were in a relationship with. No matter how long you have been speaking to someone online and how much you trust them, if you have not met them in person it is important that you do not send any money, take a loan out for them, allow them access to your bank account, invest your own money on their behalf or purchase and send the codes on gift cards for Amazon or iTunes.

Signs your friend or family member may be involved in a romance scam includes:

- Them being very secretive about their relationship or providing excuses for why they have not met their online partner or had a video call yet.
- They may express very strong emotions and commitment to someone they have only just met.
- They have sent, or are planning to send, money to someone they have not met face-to-face. They may start to take loans out or withdraw from their pension.
- They may become hostile or angry when you ask any questions about their partner.

Almost £92 million has been lost to romance fraud in the last year. If you are concerned about romance fraud, contact Action Fraud to make a report.

CHANGES TO THE HIGHWAY CODE

As of Saturday 29th January 2022, several changes were made to The Highway Code. This was following a public consultation on a review of the Highway Code in October 2020 to improve the safety of people walking, cycling, and riding horses.



Eight of the changes you need to know about are in relation to the hierarchy of road users, people crossing the road at junctions, walking, cycling, or riding in shared spaces, positioning in the road when cycling, overtaking when driving or cycling, people cycling at junctions, people cycling or riding a horse or driving horse drawn vehicles on a roundabout and finally parking, charging and leaving vehicles.

Many of the rules in the code are legal requirements and if you disobey these rules, you're committing a criminal offence. The Highway Code is not just for learners; it is updated regularly! Take the time to read the changes to The Highway Code. The full version of the Highway Code and a summary of these recent changes can be found on GOV.UK.

LOST SOMETHING?



Lost property no longer needs to be logged by Police. If you have lost something, visit reportmyloss.com where you can create a report at any time. Once you have submitted a report, the information you have provided is viewable to every Police force in order to assist with repatriation as they still encounter lost property. You can edit your report at anytime and if your lost item is recovered by Police, they can identify you and return it. Insurers recognise Report My Loss reports as valid and verifiable evidence so they can be used in place of Police loss report references.

UPDATES FROM THE TEAM



In January the neighbourhood team took part in a cross-border operation working alongside the Prevent & Detect Team, our Rural Affairs Team, and colleagues from Avon & Somerset Police. The aim of the operation was to target vehicle offences and rural acquisitive crime. Over two days, the team patrolled along the arterial routes between Devon, Dorset & Somerset, stopping and engaging with a number of motorists and members of our rural communities.

Over eight vehicles were seized and taken off the road. A number of drivers were also reported for offences including no insurance, using a mobile phone whilst driving, dangerous driving and many were reported to the DVLA for using a vehicle with no tax.

STAY VIGILANT!

In recent weeks East Devon has seen an increase in reports of both thefts from vans and thefts of catalytic convertors. Where possible, remove your tools from your van overnight but if you are unable to, ensure your van is locked and alarmed.



Record all your serial numbers where possible as this will allow the Police an opportunity to identify and recover stolen property. If you park your vehicle on a driveway, ensure it is covered by any CCTV or floodlight to deter thieves.

It takes a matter of minutes to remove catalytic convertors and last year, this was done to one vehicle in a public car park! When replacing the exhaust, be sure to look out for any marks that could be blood or fibres from gloves, as these forensic opportunities may be of use to Police. Many incidents like these go unreported. However, reporting offences help to add to the national picture and bring offenders to justice.

KNOW SOMEONE DRUG DRIVING? TELL US!

Over the past three years, Crime Stoppers statistics have shown an increase of 110% in reports of drug driving. Nationally, 1 in 20 fatalities on our roads are caused by drug drivers. It is illegal to drive while under the influence of drugs if you're unfit to do so. Drug driving puts other people's lives at risk and if you suspect someone is drug driving regularly, you can report information via 101 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

Information such as who the person is, what type of drugs they take regularly, when and where they are driving, and their vehicles make, and registration number is useful. In an emergency, or if you witness drug driving in real time, always call 999.

CRIME STOPPERS: 0800 555 111

CONTACT NUMBERS

Victim Support: 0300 303 0554 (Mon – Fri, 12pm – 6pm)
 Out of Hours Victim Support: 08 08 16 89 111
 Victim Care Unit: 01392 475900
 Samaritans: 116 123
 24 Hour Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
 Out of Hours Noise Complaints EDDC: 01395 516854
 Devon Highways: 0345 155 1004
 Citizens Advice: 0800 144 8848

 Non Emergency - dc.police.uk/contact <small>If a crime has already happened or to give information about the crime</small>	
 WebChat <small>dc.police.uk/webchat</small>	 Report crime online <small>dc.police.uk/reportcrime</small>
 Email <small>101@dc.police.uk</small>	 101 <small>Non-emergency</small>
 999 Emergency	
<small>When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required</small>	

Honiton Neighbourhood Team



INSP. 5764 Phil GRAY



PS 5783 Roy HUTTER



PC 7615 Jaz TRUDGEON



PC 7269 Steve MINGO



PCSO 30017 Darren ENGLAND

RECORDED CRIME JANUARY 2022

HONITON TOWN

Violence with Injury – 8
 Violence without Injury – 6
 Harassment – 6
 Burglary Non-dwelling – 2
 Vehicle Offences – 3
 Theft Offences – 2
 Arson - 1
 Criminal Damage – 4
 Public Order Offences – 2
 Possession of weapons - 1
 Drug Offences - 5
 Other offences – 3
 Total: 43

HONITON RURAL

Violence with Injury – 1
 Harassment - 1
 Burglary Dwelling – 1
 Burglary Non-Dwelling - 2
 Theft Offences – 2
 Public Order Offences – 1
 Criminal Damage – 3
 Public Order Offences – 2
 Drug Offences – 2
 Other Offences – 1
 Total: 15

Want to know more about what's happening in your area? Visit

www.police.uk