

## Meet some of your local policing team



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### Welcome!

My name is Paul Laity and I am the local sector inspector for area.

We will be bringing you a quarterly newsletter full of safety tips and crime prevention advice, as well as updates on issues and priorities that are of concern to local communities.

In this Spring edition, we have included useful information about how to stay safe while enjoying our beautiful region over the coming months.

My colleagues and I work hard to keep you safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Remember, if you need us but you're not in immediate danger or a crime isn't taking place, please get in touch via our website [www.dc.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.dc.police.uk/ro/report/)

If you see us out and about, please come and say hello.

We'd love to meet you!

### Meet your local teams

We will be attending these events in the coming months:

St Budeaux Library: 1pm – 2pm on 21/03/24, 18/04/24 and 16/05/24.

Jan Cutting Centre: 10am – 11am on 18/03/24 and 15/04/24, 2pm – 3pm on 16/05/24.

Marlborough House: 1pm-2pm on 16/03/24, 20/04/24 and 09/05/24.

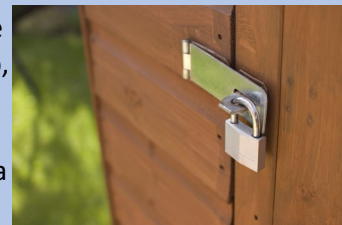
We look forward to seeing you there.

### In this edition:

1. Top tips to keep your garden secure
2. Holiday travel advice in Devon and Cornwall
3. Girlguiding Police Challenge Badge
4. Property marking information
5. Considering livestock when dog walking
6. Have you signed up to Devon & Cornwall Alert?
7. Update on our local priorities

### Keeping your garden secure

As the clocks change and the weather hopefully warms up, many of us are looking forward to spending more time in our gardens. Now is a good time to think about shed security and how you can keep your belongings safe. Protecting your garden and outbuildings not only keeps your valuables safe but can also stop burglars accessing tools to get break into your home.



### Prevention

- 1) Keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
- 2) Lock side gates at all times
- 3) Consider spiky, defensive planting and keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres).
- 4) Gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected, due to the noise caused when someone walks on them.
- 5) Install an outside security light so intruders cannot approach without being seen and consider fitting a burglar alarm system.

For more information on how you can keep your home safe, please visit our website: [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/)



## Spring travel advice

The upcoming Easter holidays, May half term, and two Bank Holiday weekends will bring extra visitors to Devon & Cornwall. This means there may be extra traffic on the roads and potential hold ups across our beautiful counties. The force will be doing its best to police Bank Holiday hotspots and make sure motorists have a smooth journey on their way to the beaches.



Top tips to help with your drive include:

- Checking over your vehicle (e.g. checking tyre pressures and making sure you have enough fuel, oil and water.
- Choosing quieter times on the roads if possible and checking forecasts so you are aware of adverse weather which may hamper your journey.
- Be prepared in case you do break down – have refreshments and appropriate clothing in your vehicle and keep your mobile phone charged.
- Never leave children or dogs in a vehicle in warm weather. Even if you're only gone for a couple of minutes and leave a window open, the rising temperature within a vehicle can lead to serious, or fatal consequences.
- Be patient and considerate to other drivers, and remember it is always best to allow extra time.
- If you are towing a caravan please make sure you know the rules...

<https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/safety/how-to-tow-a-caravan>

## Devon & Cornwall Alert

Have you signed up to Devon & Cornwall Alert yet? The two-way messaging system has more than 37,000 subscribers and is a useful way to keep up to date with what is going on in your area.

You can choose to receive text or email updates relevant to your location or type of business. You can also choose the type of information you would like to receive, which can include; witness appeals, anti-social behaviour, community events and good news stories. If you would like to sign up, please visit:

<https://alerts.dc.police.uk/#SignUp>.

Devon and Cornwall **ALERT**



Devon & Cornwall  
**POLICE**

## Girlguiding Police Challenge Badge

Did you know Devon & Cornwall Police now offer a Girlguiding Police Challenge Badge? The challenge badge aims to teach Brownies and Rainbows what the police do nationally, and in their communities, and provides information about careers in the police and personal safety.



If you would like to find out more about the pack, please visit:

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/police-forces/devon-cornwall-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/girlguiding-police-challenge-badge/>.

## Property marking

With the weather brightening up and more opportunities for you to use bikes and other high value equipment, consider marking your property and recording your items on



<https://www.immobilise.com/>. Remember, you can mark electrical items, bikes, and items such as antiques. If you'd like help marking your property, please contact your local station.

## Considering livestock when dog walking

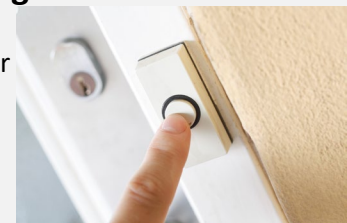
When walking through our beautiful countryside with your dog, please be cautious of livestock, especially now that lambing season is underway. Make sure your dog is on a lead at all times.



Livestock worrying is a crime and can cause devastating consequences for livestock and farmers. If you witness a dog acting out of control or attacking livestock, please phone 999 to report it.

## Protect yourself from rogue traders

Now the warmer weather is approaching, you may consider improvements to your house and garden. Be cautious of rogue traders who may knock on your door and offer to do work to your home or garden. Things to look out for include:



- Being offered a very cheap price
- Being rushed into making a decision

Remember to ask for identification and understand the terms and conditions of the work. If you notice anything suspicious, report your concerns to 101 or call 999 if you feel like you are in danger.

## Getting in touch

We're always here if you need us – but if it's not an emergency (i.e. a crime isn't happening right now and no-one is in immediate danger) then reporting online will save you time and means we have all the information we need to respond appropriately.

Scan the QR code below to take you to our website home page and choose one of the blue boxes to find the form that's right for you.

 <b>Non Emergency</b> dc.police.uk <small>If a crime has already happened or to give information about the crime</small>		<b>WebChat</b> <small>To get updates visit dc.police.uk and click on the Webchat widget</small>
 <b>999 Emergency</b> <small>When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required</small>		

## Contact details for Deaf or hard of hearing / speech impaired

<b>Emergency</b>		
 <b>999 BSL</b> <small>(video relay for BSL users)</small>	 <b>Text 999</b> <small>(You must register for this service at www.emergencysms.org.uk)</small>	 <b>18000 Minicom/textphone</b>
<b>Non-Emergency</b>		
 <b>Text 67101</b>	 <b>SignLive</b> <small>(video relay for BSL users for Non-Emergency)</small>	 <b>18001 101</b>

There are situations which seem like they should be police matters, but which are actually dealt with by other agencies, such as noisy neighbours, dog fouling, fly tipping and more.

To avoid delays, always visit our website first to see if this is an issue which is more appropriately dealt with by another agency.



## Local issues

February saw the largest evacuation in Plymouth since WW2, owing to the discovery of an unexploded bomb. As you can imagine, this was a very challenging time for us as a local policing team and our partner agencies, with door knocks to be completed and cordons to be manned. Thankfully, the bomb was moved and detonated at sea reducing risk to life and property. This would not have been possible without the support of the residents who were evacuated. We do not underestimate the difficulties this caused and the impact it had on the entire city. On behalf of our team here at Devonport, thank you for your help and understanding during this incident.

### In other news:

The results are in! A big thanks for filling in our engagement survey, telling us what is important to you in your area. This helps to shape our priorities for the coming months.

One of the concerns was drug use. We're pleased to tell you that a large-scale cannabis grow was found in the Ford area in February, this is believed to be valued at around £500,000.

Another issue raised was road safety and anti-social driving. This will be a big focus for us in the coming months, with regular traffic monitoring and patrols being planned.

If this is an issue in your area, please consider visiting [communityspeedwatch.org](http://communityspeedwatch.org) to see how you can get involved.

Also, did you know you can submit dashcam footage of bad driving directly to us through Op Snap? For full details visit [dc.police.uk/opsnap](http://dc.police.uk/opsnap)

## Keep up to date with what's happening in your area:

**Facebook:** Devonport and West Plymouth Police

**Twitter:** @DevonportPolice

**Website:** [www.dc.police.uk](http://www.dc.police.uk) and enter your postcode

**D&C Alert:** Sign up at [alerts.dc.police.uk](http://alerts.dc.police.uk) to hear instantly about the crimes happening in your area.



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