



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster and surrounding villages 2021 Review

NEWS IN YOUR AREA

DECEMBER / 2021

What a year it's been for the 5 PC's and 9 PCSOS who serve the communities of Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster and the surrounding villages.

January started with the country in lockdown. We have worked through the year adapting our "business as usual" to cater for COVID restrictions.

Here is a month by month snapshot of 2021.

January

Saw lots of work for the team - providing support and maintaining contact for the local schools, churches, retail premises and COVID support groups. Online Beat surgeries were held by the PCSOs to answer any questions and offer reassurance.

The Ilminster team carried out speed checks in the villages to address community concerns.

February

PCSO Luzia da Silva Costa joined the Chard team. Lu's ability to speak Portuguese is a well needed skill when policing our diverse community.

The team had a day of action with "Somerset Works" engaging with young people 15-18 + to encourage them back into education/employment.

The Crewkerne team received lovely "Thank you" cards made by the children of St. Barts School.

The whole team came together to assist with a large fire in the old NatWest Bank in Crewkerne. The fire had been caused by a cannabis factory.

March

PCSO's John MARTIN and Stephen TRACE recovered items of stolen plant.

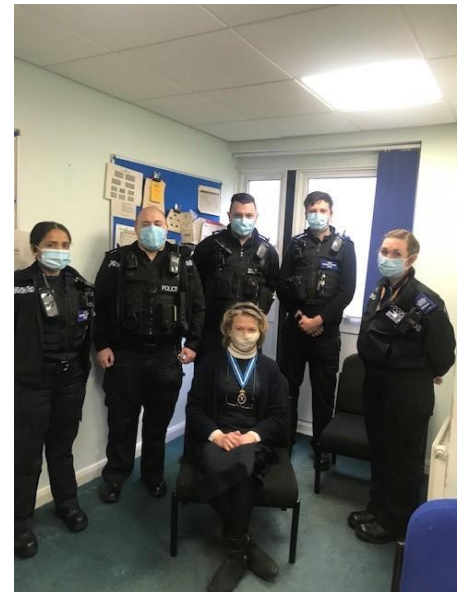
An Op SHOGUN also took place when the team worked until 4am, proactively patrolling the rural areas, stopping suspect vehicles, agricultural vehicles and targeting crime hotspots.

We also enjoyed a visit from the High Sheriff of Somerset this month.

April

The public were made aware of the increasing thefts of catalytic converters across our Force Area. We have since given out catalytic converter marker kits to garages and the wider community.

The Chard team made some positive stop searches for drugs.



High Sheriff of Somerset visits Chard Police Station (March)



8 year old Oscar and his brother visit the Police Horses (June)



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May

Crewkerne seized a vehicle for no insurance this month. A missing 92 year old gentleman was found safe and well in Chard and we responded to a number of vehicles that had their tyres slashed in East Lambrook.

June

This month saw PCSO Steve Trace keep his promise to 8 year old Oscar who suffers from Bardt Biedle Syndrome. Oscar and his brother enjoyed a fantastic day at Wilfred Fuller Centre (A&S Horse and Dog Section) meeting our four legged colleagues and watching a public order display.

The Chard team, supported by the Road Policing Unit, conducted speed checks in Chard.

July

Members of the team enjoyed meeting the community at one of the many events to return after lockdown, when they attended the Historic Military Event at Haselbury Mill.

"Come Meet Me" Surgeries were held in local towns and villages including North Perrot, West Chinnock, South Petherton and Broadway.

August

There were more "Come Meet Me" Surgeries held in Crewkerne and Ilminster.

PCSO John MARTIN enjoyed attending the Ilminster Car Show, meeting people and giving crime reduction advice.

The team were also kept busy with anti-social behaviour issues in South Petherton and thefts from vans in Ilminster.

September

Alex from Hinton St. George completed an 83km sponsored walk with the proceeds being donated to the Police Benevolent Fund and Police UK.

Also this month, supported by colleagues from Devon and Cornwall Police, we took part in a 3 night Op Shogun. Our aim was to disrupt criminals whilst reassuring, supporting and engaging with our rural communities. During the Operation, Officers covered 2,000 miles, and checked 80 vehicles – stopping 15 and seizing 2 for no insurance. PCSO Josh Andrew visited the Holyrood Playgroup in Chard.



PCSO's Steve Trace and Wes Ashbrook attend Haselbury Mill (July)



PCSO's Wes Asbrook and Jack Beanland with Alex after her 83km sponsored walk (September)



Dog rescued by PCSO Steve Trace on the A358 (October)



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October

PCSO Luzia da Silva Costa began her monthly “Come Meet Me” surgeries at a local Café in Chard. They have proved to be very successful.

PCSO Steve TRACE rescued a very lucky dog who was running through the traffic on A358.

November

A 2 day ANPR operation took place with neighbourhood officers crewing with traffic colleagues to stop and check the occupants of vehicles of interest.

The team spent a very long weekend assisting dismantling a very large cannabis factory in Sparkford.

Officers from Chard stopped a vehicle and arrested the driver after locating a large amount of cash and substances inside the vehicle. Officers enjoyed joining their communities to see the Christmas lights being switched on in Crewkerne and Ilminster.

December

Always a busy month for our teams. We have been working with our colleague from the Road Policing Unit to run “Op Tonic”, targeting drink drivers and keeping our roads safe.

It has been a very full and varied year. No day is the same in Neighbourhood Policing and we could not do our often difficult and challenging jobs without the support of our partner agencies and communities.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year!



PCSO's Wes Ashbrook and Bea Batham spend the morning at Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School (November)



PCSO Supervisor Michelle Haines, PCSO John Martin and PCSO Steve Trace attend the Remembrance Day Service at Ilminster (November)



