

Here is the latest Wing South Neighbourhood update from Police Constable Jared Levens.

Recent News

In January we held a Have Your Say meeting in Mentmore in conjunction with a coffee morning to help raise money for the local village hall. We had two residents attend who came to lend their support. No issues were raised which reflects the very low crime rate in this part of the area. Unfortunately this also meant that we were not able to raise any money but I can assure that the cakes did not go to waste!

This past month has seen the trial launch of Dogwatch. This is being trialled in the village of Wingrave by PCSO Chris Baker and if successful we will be rolling this out across the Wing South area. PCSO Baker explains "Dog owners can register their details and those of their dog and they are then issued with a card. The card will give instruction on what to look out for when walking your dog E.G, persons or vehicles acting suspiciously, fly tippers, hare coursers or those not clearing up their dog's mess and who to contact in each situation." If you are interested in joining Dogwatch in Wingrave or you would like to join from any other Wing South Village and you would like more details please contact PCSO Chris Baker either by emailing Christine.baker@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or phoning her on 07974 973 866.

On 31 January and 1 February the Wing South Neighbourhood team combined forces with Hertfordshire Police to carry out an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) operation in the Pitstone and Tring areas. This was a successful operation with over 1000 vehicles passing through the ANPR camera. This was the first of what we hope to be many more joint operations with Hertfordshire Police on this part of the border.

Please be vigilant and watch out for potholes! Please report them as soon as you become aware of them by ringing the Highways department. On one day in January there was more than 15 vehicles disabled due to one big hole near the Travellers Rest in Edlesborough.

Crime Prevention Advice

Online Safety Advice

The internet now pervades many areas of life, and whether you are communicating, doing business or social interaction, used wisely, it can be an essential and beneficial tool for modern living. However, the downside is the internet is also used for a variety of criminality with fraud being the most prevalent so below are some basic precautions and suggestions which together with a good degree of common sense should keep the user safe.

Protect your PC

- Source good anti-virus/anti-spyware software and a firewall. Some products are subscription based other offer free downloads
- Use an up to date web browser
- Keep your computer up to date i.e run 'windows updates'
- Block spam emails
- Beware bogus emails and attachments - Don't open emails from people you don't know
- Make regular back ups of your information on discs or an external hard drive

- Secure your Wi-Fi use the encryption option. If you can access it without entering security data so can someone else in the vicinity
- Choose strong passwords - passwords which use random characters; capitals, lowercase, numbers and symbols. Don't pick obvious passwords e.g birthdays or names. Use different passwords for different sites
- Use your computer in administrator mode. Create a user account and use that on a day to day basis

Social Networking

- It is advisable to set the security levels to just your friends and view your profile. Remember, how much personal information would you be happy to tell a stranger on the street?
- Pick a user name that doesn't include your real name
- Be very cautious about posting identifying information about yourself or your family: e.g your address, phone number or mothers maiden name, pets name or date of birth that could be used to identify your security passwords
- Remember what goes online stays online! Don't say or publish anything that may cause you embarrassment later. There's no delete button!
- Don't let peer pressure push you into something you are not comfortable with; like posting your mobile number or birthday
- Some people lie online may not be who they say they are. **Don't arrange to meet someone that you have only met online**
- If someone contacts you with weird or nasty messages, don't reply to them. Save the messages and contact the forum administrator.
- Further detailed information see <http://www.getsafeonline.org>

Online finance and shopping

- When shopping online always use common sense - **if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**
- Use secure websites. Look for "https://" and the padlock image to show the site is secure
- Does the company have a real address and phone number. What are their returns and data privacy policies? Call them if you are in any doubt.
- Use a secure payment option such as PayPal or a dedicated or pre-pay credit card for all on-line purchases
- Be aware that sponsored links at the top or side of search page pay to be there. These are not always reliable and can be used by criminals
- Ensure the web address shown on the search matches that which appears on the bottom bar when you hover over the link - if it does not you could be taken to a phishing site if you enter it
- Remember banks and financial institutions do not send emails asking you to verify your bank details by clicking on a link. Do not trust such emails, no matter how authentic they appear. You can always call your bank using the phone number on a genuine piece of correspondence, website (typed directly into the address bar)

NAG info

During the month of January we visited all the parish councils where we held our Neighbourhood Action Groups. Speeding remains the main priority for most villages. Over

the next few weeks we will be out in force in these villages with the assistance of our volunteer special constables.

Items that were discussed included the Parish Councils applying for the consideration of chicanes as a road calming measure in Cheddington and Dagnall.

Parking issues were discussed in Marsworth and Cheddington and we will be monitoring this over the coming month.

Offenders brought to justice

- In December 2010 James Davis aged 23 of Canberra Close, St. Albans admitted committing Burglary offences in Hertfordshire and subsequently in January this year he admitted to committing seven vehicle crimes in Ivinghoe and Pitstone in 2003. He has asked for these to be taken into consideration by the court when being sentenced.
- On 1 January 2011 a 17-year-old girl received a formal youth warning for an assault at a New Years Eve party in Dagnall.
- On 18 January a 17-year-old boy from Aylesbury was charged with possessing cannabis in Yardley Avenue. A week later he was arrested again in Aylesbury and charged with possessing cannabis with intent to supply. He is currently on remand awaiting trial.

Crime Stats

In January 2011 we had 22 crimes reported to us across the Wing South area compared to 36 crimes in January 2010. Overall crime is down significantly across the area with Theft from vehicle crime down 50 per cent.

On 1 February 2011, Thames Valley Police joined with other forces in England and Wales to publish street-level crime information through www.police.uk

This national website gives details about crime and anti-social behaviour incidents on streets across the UK, and provides contact details for the local neighbourhood policing team and ways the public can support the team's work.

Our Chief Constable Sara Thornton said: "This innovation means the public will be able to access very local information about what's happening on their doorstep. I see this information playing a very powerful role in how we are held to account by the public in neighbourhoods across the Thames Valley."

The new website replaces www.maps.police.uk, which was launched in September 2009. At the moment there is only data for December 2010 but we hope that this will become more up to date as the months roll on.

Anti Social behaviour

We have received a handful of reports of anti social behaviour across the Wing South area. Incidents of note include traffic lights and cones turned round on the Long Marston Road in Cheddington and reflectors placed on a verge to help a resident reverse into drive run over and broken in Edlesborough by their neighbour.

Three boys in Wingrave have been given harassment warnings for playing a juvenile game of Knock and Run and then shouting offensive comments at the occupants when running away. Their parents have also been and I hope that they will be able to keep their children in check in the future.

Below is a frequent question often asked of us which is classed as anti-social. This is a particular concern to residents living in Edlesborough and Ivinghoe at the moment.

Q) *Can the police do anything about people who let their dogs foul on the pavement?*

A) It is an offence not to clean up after a dog that has fouled. However, it is not the responsibility of the police but that of the local authority (Police Community Support Officers have now been given the powers to deal if witnessed by them). The maximum fine for this offence is £1000 or alternatively councils can issue a fixed penalty of £50.

If you know someone who allows their dog to foul and fails to clean up after the dog, you should make a note of the time and date of the offence and the details of the dog owner and then contact your local authority who will advise you how to proceed.

Up coming events

- On Thursday 3rd February we will be visiting Slapton Youth club between 7p.m.-8p.m. We will be postcode marking bikes and scooters but if you live in the area and wish to speak to us do pop along to the village hall and 'Have your Say'.
- Following the success of our last 'Have Your Say' outside Buds of May in Edlesborough we will be holding another 'Have your say ' at the same place on Saturday 19th March between 10 a.m. -11a.m.
- On Tuesday 29th March we will be giving a police report at the Wingrave annual parish meeting. We will be available for half an hour before this meeting starts to talk to members of the public. If you wish to 'Have your Say' do come along to the community centre between 7.30p.m. -8.00p.m.

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for local residents to speak to their local Police Officer and PCSOs about any local issues. No appointment is necessary, just turn up and speak to your local officers. Further meetings will be publicised locally and on the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

Remember to Have Your Say online

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n257-hys>

Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of the day.

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 0845 8 505505 or email WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively you can visit the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk to view information on your neighbourhood.