

SOUTH MOLTON POLICE

NOVEMBER 2017 REPORT

CRIME FIGURES

Crime figures for the month of October are now available. There were 48 reported criminal offences in the South Molton Policing area for the month. This again is a large increase to our usual number. We are not surprised by this rise in crime, and it still does not represent a concern to the local community. It can be attributed to a change in the way that crimes are currently recorded, and affects the whole force area. I would re-iterate, that there is no cause for concern. I would anticipate a return to normal figures for the following months.

Crimes of note:

- 4 X assault against the person
- 2 X non dwelling burglary
- 1 X possession of Drugs (Police detected)
- 4 x dogs related offences
- 1 x Drink driving (detected by proactive patrol)

As always further information is available at www.police.uk

Last month the Office of National Statistics (ONS) have released their crime figures for the period of 12 months to June 2017 which show a rise in recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall has seen a rise in reported crime of 17.1% (12,859 incidents), which is slightly above the national average of 14.1%.

Due to changes in crime recording standards and the implementation of new practises, the levels of recorded crime has risen for each of the 43 Police Forces in England and Wales.

Deputy Chief Constable James Vaughan said: "We must stress that crime figures only represent a minor part of what we as a police force actually do; around 80% of our business is not crime related.

"One area of crime that has seen a major rise in the recording is in the reporting of sexual offences. Following changes to our recording practices implemented in light of the recent Crime Data Integrity Report, more sexual offences are being recorded at the first point of contact, instead of the previous practice of being recorded once an officer had met with the victim.

"This change in recording practice has seen a significant increase in the number of sexual offences the Force are recording, and is also a reflection of the hard work we as a force have undertaken in recent years to help give confidence to victims that they should come forward and report these crimes to the police.

"We have also seen a notable increase in the recorded numbers of violence against the person, this is due to the new

malicious communications act and covers online harassment which is now recorded as violent crime rather than as a telecommunications offence.

"I remain confident that not only are my staff and officers working hard to protect and serve our public, but Devon and Cornwall remains a safe place to live, work, and visit, and that the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime is still very low."

DCC Vaughan added: "While there has been a rise in recorded crime, we remain committed to preventing harm, protecting the vulnerable and reducing crime whenever possible.

"Independent surveys demonstrate our communities believe their local police do a good job – we remain the most successful force in the country on that measure.

"Our public can be reassured we will do everything possible to maintain a high quality, resilient policing service."

DOG OFFENCES

We have seen a higher than usual number of Dog related criminal offences this month, and although no major cause for concern, it does appear to be a rising trend across the force. Dog related offences include:

⇒ Dog Dangerously out of control in a public place

- Under section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act, and Owner, or a person in charge of a dog, commits an offence if that dog causes reasonable apprehension to a person that they will be injured by it, whether or not they are actually injured. If the Dog does cause an injury, then a more serious "aggravated" offence is committed.

⇒ Worrying livestock

- It is a criminal offence for the keeper or owner of a dog to allow it to worry livestock and they are liable for any damage caused. Worrying could be defined as: attacking livestock; causing it injury or suffering or, in the case of females, abortion or loss of, or injury to, their offspring through being chased; or

not being on a lead or under close control, in a sheep field or enclosure

We work closely with our partners in the Council enforcement teams and the Local Dog Warden, to respond to reports of offences such as these. It is important that Dog owners are reminded that they are responsible for the actions of their pets, and they must take reasonable steps to ensure that such incidents do not occur, or they could face penalties.



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DRINK DRIVING

This month, and in the lead up to Christmas, incidents of drink driving rise, and sadly this means we sometimes see a rise in collisions related to Drinking. Here in South Molton, as well as across the whole force, we will be increasing our presence on the roads, through proactive traffic operations, and targeted patrols, in order to deter people from drink driving, and to catch those who continue to take the risk. This past month we have already caught a drink driver in our area, as well as successfully prosecuting another local resident through the courts for an incident where he had a collision whilst under the influence, and then abandoned his car in the middle of the road, causing a second collision hours later, with an innocent motorist. Please be warned that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated, and whilst we do have a prescribed alcohol limit, our advice would strongly be, not to drink at all, if you are planning to drive.



VEHICLE DEFECTS

During the winter months, with the possibility of ice and snow, and the longer darker nights, it is more important than ever, for our vehicles to be in a roadworthy condition and well maintained. We see far too many vehicles being driven with headlights out, and other dangerous defects. We will be proactively targeting vehicles seen to be defective over the winter months, and these stops could result in a fine, and/or penalty points. Please remember to check your lights, tyres and the general condition of your vehicles on a regular basis.

DOORSTEP CRIME

Again this month we have received more reports of suspicious persons calling at addresses. We have also sadly had a high value distraction burglary take place, in the nearby area this month. The incident took place between 7-7.30pm on Saturday 28th October in Blakeshill Road, Landkey, Barnstaple. The victim, a 92-year-old woman discovered two men in her home who stole in the region of £200 cash and the woman's brown handbag. The offenders are both described as white men,

skinny faces wearing coats with the hoods up. It appears one of the men distracted the occupant, whilst the other removed items. This serves as a timely reminder that we as a community must be vigilant, challenge and report any suspicious activity. Whilst we do not always respond to reports immediately, if not deemed appropriate, we still desperately need the information to be fed in to us, to help us to tackle the problem. Please look out of the vulnerable members of our community, and again, you can request doorstep crime information packs, from us. If you are particularly concerned about a vulnerable person, please let us know your concerns.

It is also worth mentioning that, whilst we have not seen a significant number of outbuilding break-ins on our patch, there have been a number across the greater North Devon area. Please be reminded to lock and secure all outbuildings overnight, and do not leave valuables out in gardens. It is also worth considering security features such as Padlock alarms, and security lighting in particularly rural areas. Further advice can be found on our website.



KEEP UP TO DATE

Another reminder that we are now on facebook, You can find us by typing "South Molton Police" into the search bar. Until we have more followers, we wont be posting much to this account, but please do add us, and help us to engage with the community.

facebook.

The Devon and Cornwall Alert system is now live, and we are encouraging as many local people as possible to sign up to the system. You can sign up under a number of headings, as a local resident, or business owner etc, and will receive bespoke alerts and information specific to your requirements.

Devon and Cornwall **ALERT** Visit the website to find out more at www.alerts.dc.police.uk

Alternatively you can request leaflets to hand out, which can be returned to us, with your details, to be signed up.

CONTACT US



EMERGENCY — 999

NON URGENT — 101



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GENERAL ENQUIRIES :

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WEBSITE: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk



South Molton Police



Devon & Cornwall Police

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
0300 123 2040