

Here is the latest update from the Faringdon Neighbourhood policing Team

Priorities

Burglary - The team have been out patrolling current hot spot areas such as Shrivenham and Faringdon, completing cocooning efforts which involved talking to neighbours and nearby residents in response to a burglary in their area to help provide crime prevention advice and identify possible future victims. We have been successful with signing people up to Thames Valley Alert (www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) and the SmartWater scheme in the village of Shrivenham around the recently targeted streets. Our advice is to be vigilant and to keep all valuables locked away and out of sight. Remember to lock doors to dwellings and out buildings, also remember to utilise window locks. Please be confident to report suspicious persons or vehicles on 999.

- You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary by taking a few simple security measures to make your property less:
- When going out, remember to light up your home using timer switches or a TV simulator.
- Don't leave valuables or cash on display and store your house and car keys away from your letterbox.
- Move bins away from any side gates to prevent easy access into your property.
- Lock any tools away to prevent them being used to break into your home.
- Consider fitting a motion activated external light and installing a CCTV system.
- Speak to your neighbours, look out for each other's homes and think about setting up Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- Remain vigilant and report all suspicious people or vehicles by calling 101 or reporting it online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- Mark your valuables using Smart Water
- Talk to neighbours when going on holiday or away for short breaks

Crime prevention surveys are available to offer advice and can be provided if you feel that you are vulnerable. We are very keen to prevent victims of crime and to help deter criminals.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) - ASB reports have reduced in Faringdon Town centre with very few reports. We have recently received a report from Stanford in the Vale highlighting a slight increase of ASB in their area. The team will be showing an increased presence in the next few weeks to assess any possible issues and deter any possible ASB.

Rural Crime- There have been several reports with regards to Hare Coursing in the rural areas including Buckland, Charney Bassett and White Horse Hill area. We continue to make efforts to be visible in the area, deter and catch offenders.

Cyber Crime/Scams/Fraud- The team have been supporting Op Signature which is designed to help prevent vulnerable victim so fraud through more complex scam attempts. The team are tasked to visit those identified as possible victims or already targeted individuals. The team complete a structured risk assessment and provide fraud prevention documents to highlight current fraud scams happening in the area. We encourage the public to safeguard yourselves with a good anti-virus and malware software and help protect anyone that may be vulnerable to this kind of issue.

We have seen an increase in telephone banking fraud, telephone banking fraud is a scam which is becoming increasingly commonplace. The fraudsters do not actually scam their victims online, but use the telephone to do so. Here's how it works:

You receive a call from somebody who claims to be from an organisation you trust, such as your bank or the police. They inform you that there is a safety or security problem associated with your bank account or payment cards, and you need to take some kind of immediate preventative action, which normally involves confirming your confidential login details. However, the person on the other end of the call is *not* your bank or card issuer, but a fraudster.

You may also be asked to give your cards to a courier sent by the 'bank' or 'police' to ensure that they have been stopped, or for evidence. This is known as 'Courier Fraud'.

The risks

- You provide your account details and answers to security questions to fraudsters
- Your bank account is emptied and/or cards used to their limit
- You could become a victim of identity theft because you have revealed confidential financial and personal information

How to avoid telephone banking fraud

- A bank or payment card company will never ask you to transfer money out of your account to another that you do not recognise, so hang up immediately.
- If you do think that the call may be authentic and you choose to call your bank or card issuer, call the number on your bank statement or other document from your bank – or on the back of your card, and NOT a number given to you by the caller or the one you were called from.
- Never provide financial or personal details to a caller, but call back on a number you know to be authentic. Many scammers have the ability to spoof authentic numbers to fool you into thinking that they are genuine.

If you have been a victim of telephone banking fraud

Report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk. Report it to your relevant bank or payment card provider immediately. You will find out how to do so by looking on their websites.

Please get in touch/follow us using the following:

E-mail: FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Phone: 101

Always phone 999 in an emergency



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