

### Priorities

**Rural crime:** Hare coursing continues to be a priority for the Faringdon Neighbourhood Team. Hare coursing is the pursuit of hares using hounds. Participants spread in a line across a field and disturb the hare from its home. They then release their dogs to give chase. A bet is made on which dog will catch the hare first with large sums of money changing hands. The most obvious sign is a group of vehicles parked in a rural area perhaps by a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path. There will usually be estate cars, four wheel drives or vans. They may contain evidence of dogs inside – such as muddy paw prints and dog hair. If you see an event taking place we would advise you not to approach the participants but contact us immediately on 101, or 999 if it is happening at the time.

### Fraud and identity theft

Understanding how to keep your personal details and identity safe is one of the best ways to prevent yourself from falling victim to fraud or identity theft. Be cautious of anyone asking for your personal or financial details. Your bank, the police and other reputable companies will never ask for this type of information over email or the phone.

#### ***To protect yourself:***

- never give personal details to anyone who contacts you unexpectedly
- don't carry documents or bank cards unless you need them
- always shred unwanted documents such as bills, bank statements and even mail
- keep personal documents in a secure place
- report lost or stolen bank cards and personal documents immediately
- check bank statements as soon as they arrive and always report any unusual activity
- always keep your card in sight when paying at a shop or restaurant
- don't respond to unsolicited phone calls or emails

#### ***Online:***

If you shop, bank or use your card online, it's important to take a few simple steps to make sure your details are protected. To help keep your details secure:

- create a strong password and use different ones for different accounts
- only enter card details on secure websites, look for the padlock icon in the address bar
- check the address starts with 'https://', the letter 's' means it's secure
- make sure all devices have up-to-date anti-virus software and a firewall installed
- always use the latest version of your web browser and regularly check for updates
- never respond to suspicious emails asking for personal information

If you would like any further information on the different types of fraud and advice on what to do please visit: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/online-fraud2>

### Witness Appeals

There was an incident of criminal damage on Christmas Day (25/12) between 7.45 – 8.15pm in Watchfield/ Shrevenham. A silver 4 x 4 vehicle was seen driving erratically on the Watchfield Recreation Ground which resulted in damage to the field. The vehicle was also seen driving close to the College Farm pub. If anyone has any details of who this could be or

any other information please report it on our website, call 101 and quote reference number 43190403650.

### Staff Changes

We would like to welcome PC Carly Meads to the team! Carly has joined us as a Neighbourhood Specialist Officer and a permanent replacement for PC Tom Pryor.

### Have Your Say!

Come along and speak to PCSO Maralyn Pack about any local concerns on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 10am -11am outside the Co-Op Store, Majors Road, Watchfield.

### **Please get in touch/follow us using the following:**

E-mail: [FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](http://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale)

Phone: 101

**Always phone 999 in an emergency**



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