



Welcome to the Spring issue of the police neighbourhood newsletter for the Cabot and Clifton area.

This quarterly newsletter is packed with current policing news and information about your neighbourhood.

## Police and local off-licences clampdown on street drinking

Since December police have been working with six local off-licences in Stokes Croft to stop problem street drinkers from buying high strength beer, lager and cider.

Following discussions with the police, the off-licences have agreed to apply for a new licensing condition that prevents them from stocking the drinks favoured by the street drinkers.

Inspector Keith Rundle said, "We would really to thank the licensees for their responsible attitude and their willingness to support their local community. It demonstrates the effectiveness of working together with local businesses to resolve long-standing issues."

"I am hopeful that we can apply the lessons that we have learned from this to benefit other communities across Bristol in the future."

In response to long standing concerns from local residents and businesses, police have been working closely with Bristol City Council to tackle the problem of street drinking around Turbo Island in Stokes Croft for some time.

Inspector Keith Rundle said: "We have been working hard to tackle street drinking in the area for a number of years and have used a range of initiatives to resolve the problem including making the area a no drinking zone, issuing ASBOs and high profile foot patrols."

Over the last six months police have been trialling a number of innovative schemes which address the continuing community concerns over this issue. As well as the usual policing tactics these have included non-enforcement activities such as working with partners from the NHS and the council to educate and offer alternative activities for street drinkers.



Cabot & Clifton

Covering the areas of: Redcliffe, Kingsdown, Spike Island, Clifton, Clifton East, Hotwells, High Kingsdown and the City Centre.

## Avon and Somerset Constabulary

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## Help keep your workplace safe

We have recently caught two burglars who have been targeting offices in the city centre and stealing employees' property by following people in through secure doors. To stop this happening to you:

- Don't let anyone tailgate you into work
- Be alert – challenge unknown people
- Note the description of anyone you don't know

Report anyone acting suspiciously to the police immediately by calling 999.

### Police stop cycle thieves in their tracks

In February the neighbourhood policing team for the city centre mounted an operation to tackle cycle theft.

Plain clothes police officers set a trap for thieves on a number of cycle racks in hot spot areas across the city centre.

Inspector Keith Rundle said: "We had had a number of reports of thefts from these areas and decided to send in covert officers to catch the offenders in the act."

Officers caught two thieves in the space of three hours. Once the criminals were taken to the station it became clear that one was a known burglar, and when searched the other had a number of stolen items on him.

Inspector Rundle said: "Cycle theft is a key priority in Bristol. Our city is the cycling city of the UK and a very large number of people commute into the city using their bikes every day.

"We strive to make it as safe as possible for cyclists but we need people to take responsibility for their own bikes too by ensuring they buy a good quality lock and always lock their bike up securely."

The neighbourhood team has already run a number of initiatives to tackle and reduce cycle crime and more are planned for the coming months.



### Office burglars caught by CCTV

Two prolific criminals have been brought to justice after being caught on CCTV whilst they committed a string of burglaries at offices across the city centre.

PC Martin Durbin said: "We were really pleased to make these arrests because it's put a stop to a spate of burglaries that had been plaguing local businesses."

From the CCTV footage the men were identified by police as well known criminals who carried out a range of crimes including burglary and cycle theft. They were quickly arrested and both men have since been charged with burglary.

The men had got into the offices by following staff or cleaners through otherwise secure doors and once inside had stolen computers and other expensive office equipment.

PC Durbin said: "We are asking employees to be extra vigilant about who they let into their workplaces. If you don't recognise someone don't let them in and always ask to see identification."



### Making the city's clubs and pubs safer

Local police officers and council licensing teams have been making problematic bars in the city centre safer.

Inspector Rundle said: "Mismanaged licensed premises lead to greater violence and other incidents in the city centre. Tackling them makes a safer and friendlier environment for all users of the city centre at night."

Recent activity has included working with Syndicate nightclub to make it safer for clubbers both inside the club and when they leave the premises.

The club have since put in raised areas for door staff to get better views of the club, improved their CCTV and put permanent staff in the toilets to keep revellers safer.

So far this has led to a significant reduction in the number of violent incidents and crimes linked to the club.

Inspector Rundle said: "We are pleased with the successes we have had working with Syndicate and are continuing to work with other venues to make the city a safer place in which everyone can have fun in the evenings."



**Avon & Somerset  
Police Authority**

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Avon and Somerset Police Authority is an independent body of people who aim to ensure you get an efficient police service. It is made up of councillors and people from the local community. The authority consults with the public to set priorities for Avon and Somerset Police. It also monitors performance, sets the amount of money for the policing part of council tax rates and appoints senior officers. To find out more visit [www.aspol.org.uk](http://www.aspol.org.uk), call 01275 816377 or e-mail [feedback@aspol.org.uk](mailto:feedback@aspol.org.uk)

## Anti Social Behaviour call-backs

If you report an incident of an anti-social behaviour in this area you will get a call-back from either PCSO Peter Hodge or our volunteer Lizzie Ware.

They will be able to let you know what we have done to tackle ASB so far and what we will be doing to will continue to reduce ASB in our area in the near future.

### Targeting Bristol's unlicensed taxis

Dangerous and illegal taxis operating in the city centre are being targeted by Police, officers from Bristol City Council and a VOSA vehicle inspector.

During Operation Hackney officers stopped and checked the majority of the city's taxis, with operations during the weekday and well into the night at weekends.

Sergeant Steve Bell said: "The majority of taxi drivers were found to be fully licensed and safe but a small percentage were caught out, and had immediate action taken against them."

The offences uncovered included taxis with a range of safety issues and all were stopped from operating as taxis until the problems were fixed.

The use of unlicensed cabs can be very dangerous, particularly for lone women. Many unlicensed cabs are uninsured but most importantly unlicensed drivers aren't vetted. Passengers have no idea who they are getting into a car with and this makes them extremely vulnerable.

Sergeant Bell said: "Our number one priority is always the safety of the public but we can't be everywhere at once.

"Our advice is to always use a licensed Hackney cab from the taxi ranks or pre-book a private hire car to ensure you remain safe."



### Member of the public helps catch car criminal

A car criminal was recently stopped by a vigilant member of the public who saw a crime in action, called the police and guided them to the thief's location.

Inspector Gus Krouwel said: "This criminal was caught close to the scene with property from the car which makes our chances of gaining a conviction very high. This is a great example of how the public can help police.

"If you see a crime taking place call us immediately and give us as much detailed information as you can. The public are our eyes and ears and often provide us with invaluable information."

The criminal was caught as part of an operation in which plain clothes and uniform police and a covert 'capture car' were used in Clifton, Cotham and Redland to tackle a spate of vehicle crimes in the area.

Police had spotted a pattern of car crime in these areas and quickly put plans into place to catch the offenders by luring them into targeting cars that were being watched.

Inspector Gus Krouwel said: "This tactic was really successful and has seen the arrest of four known criminals who had been breaking into cars in the area."

One of the men has already admitted to four crimes and has been remanded in custody. He is likely to face other offences at court.



### Helping boat users keep their property safe

70 regular boat users attended a Boatwatch meeting held by the police in Bristol Docks during February.

Concerns had been raised over the number of burglaries on the boats, which can be particularly vulnerable to thieves, as well as anti-social behaviour which the boat users experience.

PC Martin Turner said: "We were really pleased to get such a great turnout to the event."

"During the evening we received feedback about the key problems that boat users were facing.

"We also gave out contact numbers for dedicated police officers, alarms and safety information to help them keep their property safer in the future".

Officers at the meeting also encouraged the boat users to report it immediately when they are the victims of crime. This enables police to apprehend the small minority of people causing the problems so that everyone is able to enjoy the beautiful dock area.



You can also visit us on Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, through you mobile or TV service or via our Police Kiosks



## What did you think of this newsletter?

We would really like to get your feedback so we can make sure that these newsletters are full of information about the local policing and community issues that matter to you.

You can let us know what you think by visiting our website on [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsletters](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsletters)



### Introducing Neighbourhood Forums

Partners and Communities Together (PACT) is changing in Bristol. Your local PACT meetings will now be called 'Neighbourhood Forums.'

**Why?** We are now working more closely with the council and the other agencies to bring you a more joined up service and to give you more say in what happens in your neighbourhood.

**What's happening?** Bristol City Council is transferring responsibility for some budgets from the council to 14 local Neighbourhood Partnership areas that cover the city.

There will be local committees for each of these areas and they will decide how money is spent based upon priorities highlighted by the people living in that community.

**What are they?** Neighbourhood Partnerships bring together the key agencies in Bristol including local councillors, neighbourhood police teams, health services, schools, housing, community groups and local residents to shape the services used by that community.

**What does it mean for me?** You will get more say about what the key priorities should be in your area and where you think money should be spent.

**How can I get involved?** There will be quarterly meetings for every area where you can come and have your say. To find out more visit [www.myneighbourhoodbristol.com](http://www.myneighbourhoodbristol.com) or the in your area pages on our website [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

### Bristol City Council fund 42 PCSOs

Police in Bristol have more feet on the beat after employing 42 PCSOs across the city using funding provided by Bristol City Council.

Superintendent Julian Moss said: "This funding has been a tremendous boost in our quest to make Bristol a safer city. The Council's investment has provided the capacity to respond to local concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and other issues that effect residents' quality of life.

"PCSOs are an invaluable addition to the Neighbourhood Policing teams across Bristol. They spend the majority of their time on the beat and are the eyes and ears of our communities."

PCSOs are now joining forces with Bristol City Council staff to target anti-social behaviour in the city. They will be issuing fixed penalty fines for littering, dog fouling and fly posting if they see anyone committing these offences whilst they are out on patrol.



### Give something back to your community

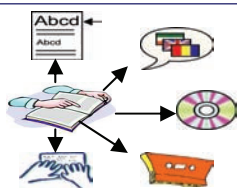
Do you want to meet new people and help make your community a better place to live? Then why not come and volunteer for the police?

There are a range of volunteer roles available in our organisation which could be anything from office based roles to community liaison and helping us to cut crime in your area.

It's also a great opportunity to get an insight into how our organisation works if you are considering a career with us.

We are currently looking for volunteers to work with police across Bristol, providing follow up information and support for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

If you would be interested in this or any of our other volunteering opportunities contact New Bridewell Police Station on 0845 456 7000 or visit our website on <http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/recruitment/PoliceStaffVolunteers/>



If you need this document in another format Tel - 0845 456 7000 or Tynetalk - 01275 816 888  
Or alternatively visit [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/WebsiteResources/accessibility/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/WebsiteResources/accessibility/)

Call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111  
or via [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)  
We never ask for your name or trace your call



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