

Axminster Neighbourhood Police Newsletter October 2020



Halloween advice

This year we're asking people to celebrate Halloween at home due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Sorry... No trick, or treat, meet or greet this Halloween

Due to the 'rule of six' which applies indoors and outdoors, gatherings that exceed this limit, such as traditional Halloween parties and social events, cannot take place this year.

Police and partner agencies are encouraging trick-or-treaters to stay at home in order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Some people, particularly if elderly or vulnerable, might be distressed by strangers knocking at their door during the evening - even more so during a global pandemic.

Download the poster at <https://www.dc.police.uk/halloween> and display on your home, or on the homes of your vulnerable neighbours or relatives.



Halloween at home – alternatives to trick or treating for families and young children

Organise a Halloween themed scavenger hunt around your house or garden.

- Arrange a virtual fancy dress party online and invite your friends and family.
- Out-boo your neighbours and have a window decorating competition.
- Get creative in the kitchen. Go online to find the recipes for spooky snacks.
- Decorate your living room and create your own scary cinema.
- Play Halloween inspired games with your friends and family.
- Try safely carving a pumpkin and share images with your friends.



Police Enquiry Office

at -

Exeter 8am-6pm
Monday – Saturday

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk



Do you know the signs of county lines?

Signs that a child or vulnerable person is being exploited for county lines:

- They may be missing from school or home.
- They may be meeting with unfamiliar or suspicious people.
- You notice a change in their behaviour or emotional wellbeing.
- They are using drugs and/or alcohol.
- Acquiring money or expensive gifts they can't account for.
- Multiple mobile phones, tablets or SIM cards

Signs that a property is being used for cuckooing include:

- More people are going in and out, often at unsocial hours.
- An increase in cars and bikes to the property.
- Many people coming and going.
- Security doors being wedged open.

If you see or hear something you think might be linked to county lines, report it:

Direct to us via our non-emergency channels or call Crime stoppers on 0800 555 anonymously.



Number of Crimes reported in October 2020

Axminster Town

Violence with Injury 5
Violence without Injury 8
Other Sexual offences 1
Burglary Non-Dwelling 1
Vehicle offences 1
Other Theft 3
Criminal Damage 2
Public Order Offences 2
Possession of Weapons 1
Possession of Drugs 1

Axminster Rural

Violence with Injury 9
Violence without Injury 6
Other Sexual offences 2
Vehicle offences 1
Other Theft 2
Public Order Offences 1
Possession of Weapons 1
Trafficking of Drugs 1
Other Offences 1
Non-Notifiable Offences 1



Want to know more about the crimes in your area?

Police.uk is a national website which allows you to view what crimes have been committed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The website allows you to zoom in on areas and see crimes committed on individual streets, month by month. **The website also links to Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Crime Prevention Advice.** <https://www.police.uk/>

Axminster Neighbourhood Team



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Romance Scams



What is it?

Romance fraud occurs when criminals feign romantic intentions towards their intended victim and use the nature of their relationship to fraudulently obtain money or sensitive information.

The scammers get you to lower your defences and make you think you have found the perfect partner, but they are not who they say they are. They will send you photos, but the picture is not likely to be them.

Once they have gained your trust, they ask for money for a number of false reasons, including travel costs, visa costs and medical bills. Many people have lost large amounts of money by falling prey to these scams.

What you should do if you have been a victim

- Report it to Action Fraud
- Break off contact immediately
- Report the fraudster to the website or chat room operator of the site/media you were using
- Do not send any money
- Report it to Police if the Fraud is ongoing or recently taken place

Protect Yourself against Dating Fraud

- Trust your instincts. If you think something feels wrong, it probably is.
- Guard your privacy.
- Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you have never met or don't know and trust.
- Communicate with people locally and not from overseas, although you should be aware that someone might tell you they are in the same country as you when they are not.
- Never reply to communications from someone who you meet on a dating site or chat room and then wants to continue the communication by email.

