

Police Advocate report March 2022.

March has proved a very busy month for the Police for several reasons, but I am please to report that currently the impact on the Parish is minimal.

The Police have been receiving a higher degree of theft of fuel from vehicles, and now Heating oil from tanks. (But this is across the whole of the Counties)

Clearly the fall out for the War in the Ukraine, and rising cost of Oil has generated these problems. They have advised everyone across Devon and Cornwall to protect their resources as the cost to replace them could be extremely excessive. As of the 23rd of March, the average cost of 1000 litres of Kerosene are approximately £1040, and is fluctuating daily, this causes some people to take from others.

Please remain security conscious locking and putting in measures where necessary to protect your Oil tanks, as to cars make sure they have locking petrol caps.

If you find someone stealing from you Phone 999, take a picture, (without being seen, if possible,) of the person or persons, and their car registration number. If you find a theft, then contact 111 and report the matter to the police.

The Police have recently started an ongoing Operation to combat the war of drugs in our communities you may have seen the local news and the large number of arrests that have been made. The operation is called operation Scorpion, and is not a quick hit, it is a long-term strategy which will last at least 10 years. The plan is combining Devon and Cornwall and the Isle of Scilly, along with other Counties to try and place what is termed a ring of Steel around the Southwest.

The Police are asking us the Public to help by reporting all drug dealing or suspected drug dealing activity to Crime stoppers which will give you anonymity. Please note however even though you may have evidence it will initially be recorded as intelligence, the Police will collate, acting accordingly, obviously if it is a serious matter taking place then 999 should be called.

The general thinking is to identify elderly and Vulnerable people who may be subject to duress and forced or coerced into allowing people to use their house or other premises to deal controlled drugs. If you know someone like this, they might have gone quiet, reclusive, but have caller's unknown to you or the neighbours then call Crime stoppers, you are not getting the person into trouble, you in fact could be saving their life. If we pull together as a community, we can help make a difference.

There is an argument that we as a community are remote, away from the busy town and areas that people gather. This is true, however sometimes these people are just looking for a base out of the way. Let us do what we do well in our community, and care for our

neighbours, keep a watchful eye out for anything untoward, and when in doubt phone it in the idea is that the Police gather intelligence on Drug misuse Alcohol Abuse, and anti-social behaviour, so that they can stamp down on it, these three things tend to go together.

Our Parish continues to be a beautiful and peaceful area, let us pull together to keep it that way. Please stay safe.

Crime Stoppers number is **0800 555 111**. **They are not the Police; they are a Charity.**

Robert Gavin

Police advocate and Chair of Poundstock Parish Council.