

Neighbourhood Watch Report September 2024

Cllr Roger Dollins

A home was burgled in Bell Close, Westbury Sub Mendip, during the early hours of the 10th. The suspect gained entry by drilling the lock on the rear door. Once inside a set of vehicle keys were taken and the owner's vehicle, VW Golf, subsequently stolen.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5224238818 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

- [burglary-prevention-advice.pdf](#)

A rural property was burgled in Nordrach Lane, Compton Martin, on the 9th between 1pm and 1:53pm. Two unknown males attended the address claiming to be from the Electricity Board, stating they were there to replace an electric lighting pole. They were granted access, by the resident, to the property where they remained for almost an hour before departing in a dark coloured van. It was discovered that whilst in the property, cash was stolen together with the contents of a secure cabinet.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5224238324 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

- [rogue-traders-not-sure%-dont-open-the-door.pdf](#)

Avon and Somerset Police received 11 reports of pension fraud in 2023 with victims collectively losing just under £70,000. New data reveals that nationally the figure was £17.7 million based on 559 reports – an average loss of £46,959 per person.

Sadly, fraud is largely underreported, so the actual numbers are likely to be much higher.

Please see the attached for further information.

- [pension-investment-fraud.pdf](#)

There have been recent dwelling burglaries where the main objective appears to be stealing the occupant's vehicle. Please consider the security of your vehicle and remember the below:

1. If a garage is available, ensure that your vehicle is secured inside it when possible. If you have two vehicles, park the lowest-value one outside and close to the garage door to prevent them being forced.
2. If present, ensure any driveway gates are closed and locked.
3. Ensure your vehicle is always locked and consider using additional security devices such as steering wheel locks, trackers and the like.

4. No keys should be stored in locations which are visible through doors, windows etc, or within easy reach of letterboxes or other openings.
5. When you are away, or at night, consider taking your keys to bed with you, but ensure all the residents know where they are in case of an emergency.
6. Consider storing your keys (depending on their functionality) in a 'Faraday' type pouch or box.

For further advice and security products please see <http://www.soldsecure.com> and <http://www.securedbydesign.com> “

- [beating-car-crime-cj019.pdf](#)
- [as-van-security-general.pdf](#)
- [burglary-prevention-advice.pdf](#)

Action Fraud are warning students of common fraud types ahead of the start of the new academic year.

Please see the attached for more information.

- [fraud-advice-to-students.pdf](#)

Please find attached the Mendip Newsletter for August.

- [mendip-newsletter-august.pdf](#)

A home was burgled in Coxley, Wells, between midday on the 19th and 6pm on the 20th of August. Calling the owner, a nearby resident reported seeing the rear door had been smashed and entry had been made. On attendance the rear French door had been forced and inside an untidy search conducted with jewellery stolen from within.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5224219865 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

We have received reports of traders cold calling elderly or vulnerable residents and using pressure tactics to get them to agree to have work done. The offenders have offered to clear moss from roofs, clean guttering and pressure wash drives. They insist of being paid in cash, often before they start any work, which may be unnecessary or of poor quality.

We're recommending that all residents use caution whenever answer the door to unknown or unexpected callers. Use a door chain if possible, and don't be afraid to close the door if you feel intimidated or concerned

- [cold-callers-warning.pdf](#)
- [doorstep-crime.pdf](#)

“It’s not worth reporting a scam call. Nothing happens.”

In fact, every scam call, email or text is worth reporting.

Last week, our colleagues at the National Crime Agency (@NCA) announced they have shut down a platform used by hundreds of criminals to defraud victims across the world.

The platform allowed criminals to hide their identity by appearing to call from pre-selected numbers, such as financial institutions, telecoms companies and law enforcement agencies, gaining the trust of victims before stealing their money and personal details.

From 2021-2024, over 1.3 million calls were made to 500,000 UK phone numbers.

An estimated 170,000 people across the UK are believed to be victims.

Of those who reported to Action Fraud, the average loss is over £9,400.

If you receive a scam call, text or email, please report to @actionfraud , the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime, to help build a clear picture of where these crimes are being committed. Even if you haven’t lost anything, your report may help protect others.

If you’ve been a victim of fraud, know that it’s not your fault and it’s never too late to get help.

Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit actionfraud.police.uk.

A home was burgled in Chapmans Close, Wookey, on the 28th Aug between 11:30am and 4:30pm. The suspect/s gained entry by smashing a hole in a rear patio door, where they reached through to turn a key left on the inside. Within the property an untidy search was conducted with a small safe, tv, cash & personal documents stolen. Exit as per entry.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5224196904 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

- [burglary-prevention-advice.pdf](#)
- [patio-door-security.pdf](#)

We have been alerted to possible rogue traders operating in the Burnham-on-Sea and Brean areas offering roofing repairs and cleaning services. Elderly and vulnerable residents have been approached by three white males in their early 20’s who are very pushy and insist that they need to enter homes to access roofs and conservatories. Any work that has been done has been described as shoddy, with little or no evidence that anything has actually been done, and demand cash payment only. They are driving a 68-plate silver Ford Transit, which has a company name on the side. Although these offences have occurred in the Burnham area, we want to alert residents across Somerset as they may drive to other parts of the area to commit further offences.

- [cold-callers-warning.pdf](#)

As you can see it has been a busy time for the thieves and con artists, please be aware lock up set the alarm if you have one, don't part with your money to cold callers or telephone callers. Check first, if necessary, with a relative or friend if you are approached and are not sure about anything and report it to the police and fraud line.

With the darker evenings upon us soon, check your outside lights are working, lock your doors and windows also your shed and garage doors.

Be aware at all times, but not worried as we are lucky to be in a low crime area compared to some areas, but don't let these morons get away with it keep safe. RD