

CSI:



South Bucks
District Council



THAMES VALLEY
POLICE

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION Issue 6 2011

Don't let Christmas be a time for taking

Christmas is a time for giving, but residents are being warned not to make it easy for criminals to use the festive season as a time for taking. Although South Bucks has one of the lowest crime rates in the country, the extra hustle and bustle in town centres combined with the high value of the presents we buy offers some easy opportunities for criminals to line their pockets with ill-gotten gains.

At home:

- Keep presents out of sight. For example, don't put them in view of the window.
- Make it look as though there is someone home when you go out by closing curtains and leaving lights and the radio on.
- Remember that empty present boxes outside your property only advertise what's inside. Dispose of packaging carefully.
- If you will be away for several days, use timer switches for your lights and ask a neighbour to watch over your home and take in post. Don't forget to cancel the milk and newspapers.
- Always ask for identification from doorstep charity collectors. If you want to donate but feel unsure, ask for details on how to make a donation online or by post.



Out shopping:

- Keep your wallet or purse close to your body and don't carry too much cash, just in case.
- When you're laden down with lots of bags make sure you keep your valuables closest to you.
- If you travel by car, park in a well-lit area and make sure you lock up. It's best not to return to your car to drop off bags before continuing shopping, as thieves have been known to watch car parks for such a chance.

Out on the town:

- Always have a plan for how to get home, and make sure someone knows where you are going and when you'll be back.

Join Thames Valley Police Community Messaging

If you would like to know about the crime and community safety activity in your neighbourhood sign up for community messaging on the Thames Valley Police website

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Did you know? There are 1487 residents signed up to community messaging in South Bucks

Drugs – The Facts: Nitrous Oxide – it's no laughing matter.

Thames Valley Police are getting reports of Nitrous Oxide use across the area as there have been finds of discarded containers in significant numbers. Although this substance is legal, cheap and easily obtainable, there is concern that the right advice on the harm is given out to people using it.

The 'head rush' gained from inhaling this gas can be similar to the effects of alcohol but a more intense, short lasting blast. It can last around 2 minutes, giving a euphoric feeling followed by giggles, dizziness, distorted sound and slurred speech. This effect is caused by starving the body of oxygen.

Possible short term effects:

- a pain-free state
- a short-lived but intense high,
- depersonalisation (detached from yourself),
- derealisation (external world seems strange or unreal),
- dizziness or, loss of balance,
- euphoria - stimulate an already excited user,
- slight hallucinations or mental confusion,
- throbbing or pulsating audible hallucinations,
- sedate a more relaxed user.



Possible long term effects:

- asphyxiation,
- vitamin b12 deficiency (lack of red blood cells),
- neuropathy (a problem with the nerves that carry information to and from the brain and spinal cord),
- possible brain damage,
- tinnitus (ringing, whining, buzzing, hissing, humming, or whistling sounds in the ear),
- numbness in extremities, limb spasms, loss of ability to walk, motor control loss, possible paralysis, and incontinence

The law

- Possession of Nitrous Oxide in the UK for non-inhalant purposes is legal for those over 18 years of age.
- It is illegal to sell Nitrous Oxide for recreational purposes. Suppliers face a prison sentence of up to two years.
- It is illegal to inhale Nitrous Oxide but within our legal system this law is rarely enforced.

Appearance and use

- Nitrous Oxide is becoming increasingly popular among the clubs and dance venues of the UK.
- Balloons filled with 'laughing gas' can be bought for about £2.50 on the entrance to some clubs.
- The canisters used for pressurised whipped cream dispensers contain nitrous oxide.

THE RISKS

Unconsciousness - usually caused by homemade masks, headaches, vomiting, loss of co-ordination, nerve damage - tingling, numbness, paralysis, sudden sniffing death syndrome (SSDS) and confusion.

Prolonged exposure can be fatal.

SLANG NAMES

Laughing gas, buzz bomb, hippie crack, whippets, NOS, N2O

If you have concerns about drugs or want to know more information then help is at hand: www.talktofrank.com or further information is available at

FRANK
0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com
Friendly, confidential drugs advice

together we can together we can

White Ribbon Day

Former England footballer Dennis Wise rolled back the years when he played 70 minutes of a charity football match to raise awareness for a campaign on Saturday.

The 44-year-old put on his boots for the game at Burnham Football Club between officers from Thames Valley Police and a joint team of members from Burnham and Farnham Common Youth Clubs .



The game was organised at The Gore, Burnham to raise awareness of domestic violence towards women - that was marked by International White Ribbon Day across the globe.

In a fiercely fought contest the energetic youth club team came out on top winning 5-2, with ex-Chelsea midfielder Dennis Wise pulling the strings in midfield.

Organiser Nic Martin, of South Bucks District Council's Community Safety Team, said: "It was a good game and the youth club team were too quick for the police, and Dennis had given them a team talk before the game."

The awareness activities also included: a cake sale, engaging with commuters at Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield Train Stations; a stand at Tesco and; meeting parents at Dorney School.

In total the partnership raised £295 for Wycombe Womens Aid.

Thank you to all those who supported the day.



Dial 101 For The New Police Non-Emergency Number

In November the Thames Valley Police went live with 101, the new national single non-emergency number which replace the 0845 8 505 505 number. Both numbers will run side by side until the end of March, but if demand for the 0845 8 505 505 number drops it may be discontinued earlier.

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day the call is made, or the duration of the call.

Everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will now know exactly how much a call will cost them, and can be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home landline.

The routing will be based on the same system as 999 calls. If a caller is using a landline the routing will be based on the caller's postcode and the call will be directed to the police force for that area. If a caller is using a mobile, the call will route using the mast that the phone is transmitting from.

If a call is made to 101 within a force area that has not yet 'gone live', the caller will hear a recorded message telling them to redial using the relevant non emergency number.

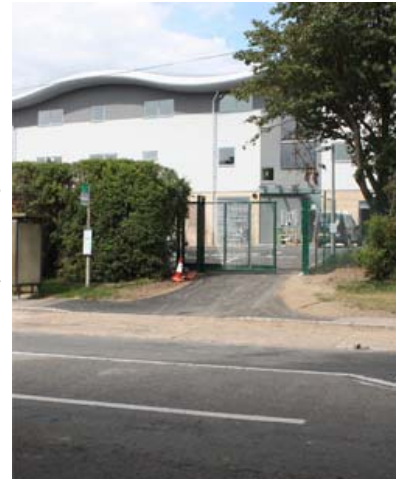


New police base opens in Taplow

A new police base has been built in the site of the former Roads Policing Base at Taplow, Buckinghamshire and it was officially opened on 21/10.

The newly built premise will not only be used as a permanent base by roads policing officers, who have recently moved back in from a temporary base in Gerrards Cross, but also the Thames Valley Police Olympics Planning Team. There are also plans for Major Crime officers, who are currently stationed at Maidenhead police station, to move across following the Olympics in 2012.

Chief Inspector Ford said: "It is an exciting opportunity to locate departments in a purpose built facility and it provides ease of access to the Olympic Planning Team to the Eton Dorney venue. Although there is no public access to the police base, Burnham police station continues to provide front counter services to the local community Monday to Friday."



Crackdown on uninsured drivers

New laws to tackle uninsured driving are now in force. Under the new Continuous Insurance Enforcement law it's an offence to be the keeper of an uninsured vehicle, rather than just to drive when uninsured.

From now, registered keepers identified as having an uninsured vehicle will be sent a letter telling them that their vehicle appears to be uninsured, and warning them of the consequences if they fail to take action. Those who don't act on this warning - either by taking out insurance or declaring their vehicle off the road - will receive a £100 fine and could have their vehicle clamped, seized and destroyed. They may also face a court prosecution. All drivers can check their vehicle is recorded correctly for free at askMID.com



Autocrime: Don't give thieves an easy ride

Vehicle crime is still a big issue in our District, which is difficult to understand when the majority of offences could easily be prevented by owners locking their vehicles and not leaving possessions on display. Recent local research has shown that tools, sat navs and stereos are the most common items to be stolen from inside a car. Because of this South Bucks District Council's Community Safety Team, Car Park attendants and Thames Valley Police Staff are out in hotspot areas, encouraging owners to keep their cars clear, and writing to those whose vehicle has been left insecure, or with items on display.

Car and van drivers need to also be on their guard when it comes to number plates too. Plates are often stolen to use in further crimes such as bilking (petrol theft). Tamperproof screws can be used instead of regular screws, to secure your plate to your vehicle. These can be purchased from most DIY stores for just a few pounds. Another threat to motorists is the theft of catalytic converters. These are being targeted purely for their scrap value. Drivers should perform regular safety checks on their vehicles and alert the police immediately if they notice anything suspicious.

