

# CSI:



South Bucks  
District Council



THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE

## COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION Issue 1 2012

### How Is Your Partner Going To Show They Love You This Valentines Day?

For most people Valentine's Day is the most romantic date on the calendar. However, for some February 14th can bring another day of fear and abuse when 'love' turns into unreasonable jealousy and, possessiveness turning to violence, power and control.



This Valentine's Day South Bucks District Council is sending out a strong message to victims of domestic violence who are in lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender relationships, that they are not alone and that support and help is available on their doorstep.

Broken Rainbow UK runs the only National lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) Domestic Violence Helpline and offers support to LGBT communities, their friends, family, perpetrators and agencies working in the domestic violence sector. This is an area so often ignored, and misunderstood.

"We have made progress toward greater equality for LGBT people with civil partnership and provisions in the Equality Act 2010 but sadly, domestic violence in LGBT communities remains invisible and people continue to associate it with something that only happens to women by their male partners.....Given that 1 in 4 LGBT people also experience domestic violence we need to work together to raise awareness of this devastating crime. The Rainbow Ribbon is about awareness; its message is about respecting human rights, and about saving lives."

*Rita Hirani CEO for Broken Rainbow UK.*

For more information and advice, please contact the following:

The National Broken Rainbow LGBT DV Helpline - **0300 999 5428**,  
Open Monday and Thursday 2pm – 8pm and Wednesday 10am – 5pm.

Or visit [www.broken-rainbow.org.uk](http://www.broken-rainbow.org.uk)

Broken Rainbow UK Office on 08452 60 55 60 or email [mail@broken-rainbow.org.uk](mailto:mail@broken-rainbow.org.uk)

### 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

*Did you know? There are over 1500 residents on community messaging in South Bucks.*



**0808 802 0300**

### **Taking Stalking Seriously**

Stalking is repeated, unwanted intrusions into your life that cause you to feel scared or distressed. It doesn't have to include threats of violence and will usually be carried out by someone you know.

If you or someone you know is being stalked and you are not sure what to do or who to talk to, you can contact the National Stalking Helpline. They provide confidential information and guidance and always take stalking seriously.

**Freephone: 0808 802 0300**

**Visit: [www.stalkinghelpline.org](http://www.stalkinghelpline.org)**

**Email: [advice@stalkinghelpline.org](mailto:advice@stalkinghelpline.org)**

Open 9.30 to 4pm weekdays except Wednesday 1pm to 4pm

### **Are You Special - Then Join Thames Valley Police Special Constabulary**

Thames Valley Police is currently recruiting for volunteer Police Officers.

Special Constables are trained, uniformed volunteers who have the same powers, privileges and protections as regular Police Officers.

Volunteering to be a Special gives you the chance to give something back to your community while learning new and useful life skills. You'll provide a vital link between regular police officers and the community at large and enjoy all the same powers. So, if you've got at least four hours a week to spare, why not give it a try?

Nic Martin recently joined the special constabulary and he says the following about his experience so far, "Joining the specials has opened up a world of opportunity for personal and professional advancement. Undergoing the training and then going out on patrol makes a welcome break from day-to-day life, bringing excitement and challenges with every day you volunteer."

#### **How to apply:**

**You can apply online at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**

### **Update your community messaging**

If you are signed up to Thames Valley Police Community Messaging, please remember to keep your details up to date. You can do this by logging on to your account.

In December 2011, we had over 50 residents sign up to community messaging.

### **Gerrards Cross Health Fair**

**On the 29th February 2012, South Bucks District Council is holding a Health Fair at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre from 9.30 am until noon.**

**A variety of agencies will be in attendance.  
For more information call  
Kamla on 01895 837379**

### **Remove it before you lose it** Car park tickets

**From January, council run car park tickets will carry a reminder on the back of it to encourage vehicle owners to remove items of value from the vehicle.  
Such items can range from a laptop to loose change.**



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## Smart Way To Protect The District's War Memorials

South Bucks District Council has signed up to a new national partnership designed to locate, log and protect thousands of war memorials across the UK. Part of the 'In Memoriam 2014' scheme sees the War Memorials Trust and the SmartWater Foundation working with partners and using cutting-edge forensic technology to protect memorials.

The nation's estimated 100,000 war memorials are under increasing threat from thieves and vandals attempting to steal metal. Despite the metal having relatively little monetary value it is estimated that on average one war memorial a week is being targeted by thieves looking to illegally remove bronze, copper or other metals to sell on for scrap.

South Bucks District Council's Community Safety Team is currently in the process of locating, recording and protecting all war memorials in the District using SmartWater, assigning them with a state-of-the-art forensic signature that can only be seen under UV light. Once applied, SmartWater is virtually impossible to remove and can withstand burning, sand blasting and long term exposure to the elements.

South Bucks District Councillor Anita Cranmer, Portfolio Holder for Community, says, "In Memoriam 2014, is a very special project to protect war memorials in communities across the UK. If a thief comes into contact with SmartWater they will be inadvertently spreading forensic evidence onto their clothes and any tools they are using. This can be used by police to link them directly to the crime scene."

**For further information on the scheme, please contact South Bucks District Council's Community Safety team on 01895 837200.**



## 'Keep Thieves Locked Out'

Allotment and shed owners in South Bucks are being warned by South Bucks District Council's Community Safety Team that their garden shed has increasingly become a happy hunting ground for thieves. With the majority of houses being equipped with burglar alarms and other security measures, traditional burglars are opting for easy pickings at the end of the garden. It is also a sad fact that warm weather brings an increase in shed and garage burglaries.

### Some simple crime prevention tips include:

- Make sure that you lock your shed. Use strong padlocks and other locks. Fix padlock protectors to all padlocks. Replace exposed screws on hinges/locks with coach bolts.
- Fit an alarm to your shed. These are cheap and easy to install and can be very effective.
  - Security mark the contents of your shed. Make a note of the serial numbers of any equipment. You may want to consider photographing valuable items.
    - Check that your insurance covers thefts from your shed/garden
    - Fit an external security light that is activated by movement.
    - Make sure that you put tools and ladders away after use.
- Secure any windows and prevent anyone from seeing into your shed by covering windows.
  - Try to secure items such as bicycles to the structure of the building

*Why not fill out the crime prevention self assessment on the council website?  
You will receive feedback from the experts about how secure your shed is.*



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## **Borrow a box: Help wipe out graffiti**

The 'Borrow a Box' Scheme, run by South Bucks District Council's Community Safety team, is giving residents the opportunity to do something about graffiti on their property by offering free removal kits.

Graffiti can take many forms including drawings, tags or messages that are painted or written on buildings, walls or street furniture. It is unsightly, illegal and often highly offensive and can attract other crimes to a particular area.

The graffiti response kits which are available from the Council are safe, simple and easy to use: full instructions are provided along with appropriate protection equipment.

South Bucks District Councillor Anita Cranmer, Portfolio Holder for Community, says, "Removal of graffiti on commercial premises or private property remains the responsibility of the owners to remove. Graffiti can spoil both public and private property and can be very costly. The environmentally friendly kit can be customised to take into consideration the type of surface effected. We want to give residents the tools to help make their local area, cleaner and greener."

Neighbourhood Inspector, Bhupinder Rai says, "Graffiti can add to the fear of crime and can be a contributing factor in the decline of a neighbourhood or area. By working with our partners and local residents, we aim to have a clean 'graffiti free' environment."

**To borrow a graffiti response kit, for a returnable deposit, contact South Bucks District Council's Community Safety team on 01895 837200**



## **Graffiti visible from the M40 removed**



A self declared intellectual has constantly been sharing unwanted armchair philosophy by way of graffiti sprayed onto a long fence which is on the top of a hill overlooking the London bound carriageway of the M40. Although these political, cryptic and cynical views have sometimes been the source of amusement, graffiti is unsightly and unattractive and contributes to a fear of crime that is detrimental to communities and individuals.

When graffiti is reported, if it is obscene or racist it will be removed at cost to SBDC as soon as possible after permission has been obtained from the property owner. For all other graffiti, the property owner will be notified of the report and requested to carry out removal within 28 days. A graffiti removal kit is available to hire from Community Safety on payment of a returnable deposit. If the request is ignored, we may enforce removal at cost to the owner under powers given in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, but this is seen as a last resort.

The M40 motorway which stretches from West London to Birmingham is one of the busiest in Britain and for many years users travelling south have been subjected to unsightly graffiti visible on the Gerrards Cross stretch. Carole Bennett from the Community Safety team contacted the owners and they have recently removed the graffiti from the fence at the rear of the property. The view from the motorway is greatly improved and is less of a distraction for drivers in the fast moving traffic.

**Please report incidents of graffiti to Carole Bennett at the District Council.**

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