

Police Report

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at:

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland

Theft

With the earlier dark nights in we have the potential for daytime Housebreakings which unfortunately have been a seasonal trend in the past. We remind residents to be ever vigilant and contact the Police should anyone see anything suspicious. Please remember to follow basic home security rules and help to make it harder for the thieves.

Please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
- create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

It is also of note that there was a recent theft of a motor vehicle from a village whereby it would appear the perpetrators have placed wire or similar through the letter box and removed the keys from within. Please bear that in mind when leaving keys around the house.

There are guides on the Police Scotland website giving other ideas to protect property in rural areas:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime>

Road Safety

The Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership have continued to operate on the A811 and local officers have and will continue to carry out high visibility patrols to improve road safety.

The winter weather causes roads and driving conditions to be hazardous. Please check and maintain your vehicle for road worthiness. This includes ensuring that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway.

Door Step Crime

Doorstep Crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms including online and telephone scams, exploitation by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be bona fide tradespeople.

We welcome all calls of this nature as some can be more serious and are of a criminal nature. We urge everyone to report any suspicious activity or persons and these incidents will be dealt with accordingly.

Phishing

There are still reports of these types of attacks to defraud money from people. Criminals and Organised Crime Groups launch Phishing attacks, targeting personal/business accounts either by email, social media, or text. They encourage users to click on malicious link/attachments which compromise their email or social media accounts, asking users to divulge banking information or access sensitive information.

The advice below describes how you can spot suspicious emails, and the steps you can take to ensure that you don't fall victim, both at work and home:

- Confirm details of the actual email address it came from, you can do this by hovering mouse over the senders email address.
- Many phishing emails have poor grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Is the design and overall quality what would you'd expect from the organisation the email is supposed to come from?
- Is it addressed to you by name, or does it refer to 'valued customer', or 'friend', or 'colleague'? This can be a sign that the sender does not actually know you, and that it is part of a phishing scam.
- Does the email contain a veiled threat that asks you to act urgently, or cause intrigue? Be suspicious of words like 'send these details within 24 hours' or 'you have been a victim of crime, click here immediately'.
- Look at the sender's name. Does it sound legitimate, or is it trying to mimic someone you know?
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It's most unlikely that someone will want to give you money, or give you access to a secret part of the Internet.
- Your bank, or any other official source, should never ask you to supply personal information from an email.

For more information on how you can stay safe and secure online, visit the following websites:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/keep-secure-online/>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions>

<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/dont-take-bait>

<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>