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COPELAND FOCUS

FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

November 2023 - Millom & South Copeland

In this months newsletter you will see an update in relation to the heavy snowfall over the weekend that was declared a major incident.

We know many of you may have been affected by this and would like to thank our communities for their patience as ourselves and partner agencies worked around the clock to clear roads, support vulnerable people and assist those in need, we would also like to thank those that helped others during this time.

Inspector Richard Smillie



Update on major incident which has concluded following heavy snowfall over the weekend

A major incident which was declared over the weekend following heavy snowfall in parts of Cumbria has been stood down.

Extensive snowfall across the county, in particular the Millom and South Lakes areas, on Saturday caused major issues with Cumbria's road network.

On Saturday afternoon, a multi-agency response was launched to support those impacted by the unprecedented snowfall which fell quickly making roads impassable and resulted in people having to abandon their vehicles.

At Grizedale Forest, approximately 500 vehicles had to be abandoned and people were stranded as they attended a rally car event which had to be cancelled at short notice. A significant multi-agency operation, assisted by mountain rescue teams, was conducted to escort those stranded to a place of safety.

Reception centres, supported by local communities and businesses, were set up to accommodate those who had to abandon their vehicles.

Throughout the weekend, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council highways teams tackled challenging conditions to clear and treat impassable roads and priority routes.

Agencies have been working closely with Electricity North West to assist them in supporting communities who have lost power. Engineering work is ongoing as efforts are made to restore power as quickly and safely as possible to those who remain without electricity.

Superintendent Andy Wilkinson, Cumbria Constabulary, said: “Over the weekend Cumbria experienced unprecedented snowfall which was of a much higher volume than what was forecast.

“This had a significant impact on those within our communities and those visiting the county. Hundreds of vehicles had to be abandoned and hundreds of people were supported by the multi-agency response.

“A significant amount of work has been undertaken by agencies to identify those most vulnerable and provide the appropriate support to them.

“Highways teams have worked round-the-clock to restore and maintain the road network in what were extremely difficult conditions.

“Once again, Cumbrian communities have played their part in assisting people who needed support. I thank every single member of the public who volunteered and helped those affected this weekend.

“I would also like to thank everyone involved in this multi-agency response. Long hours have been worked by many people to keep people in Cumbria safe, which is what has been achieved.

“Road conditions continue to be challenging and are expected to remain so this week due to the ongoing cold weather. Therefore, I would continue to ask people to drive with extreme care and attention. Please allow extra time for any journey.”

School Parking



We have had concerns been raised over manner of parking at school start and finishing times at St James and Millom infants.

Parking inconsiderately such as on double lines or zigzags causes a safety issue for the children and puts them at serious risk and may result in fines being issued.

We are asking people to please take consideration about where they are parking at drop off and pick up times.

Cumberland detectives offer advice to stop burglars targeting your home

Police in north and west Cumbria are continuing to urge people to keep home security in mind to stop burglars targeting their homes.

Houses in places including Carlisle, Wigton and Whitehaven have been burgled in the last week, with a number happening during the hours of darkness.

Officers continue to prioritise all household burglaries, with offences investigated under Operation Themis, the operation tackling these crimes.

Numerous arrests and charges have been made in recent months – but officers are keen to stress the simple measures that can stop many opportunistic burglars.

Detective Superintendent Matt Scott said: “Being burgled, especially in your home, can be extremely traumatic.

“Cumbria is a safe place to live and we have a much lower number of these types of invasive crimes than in many other parts of the country but we have always taken this type of offence extremely seriously.

“When burglars strike, they can target anyone’s home, regardless of age or area. Often all they are looking for is a weakness in home security they can exploit.”

Burglaries at homes across Cumbria are often spontaneous crimes carried out by opportunist thieves trying door handles or reaching in through open windows.

Det Supt Scott added: “Simple steps such as locking doors, not leaving out-of-sight windows open and not leaving valuable possessions in view of potential thieves can be effective in preventing incidents.

“We appreciate energy costs are high, but please consider keeping a visible light or lamp on if you are out.

“We would also encourage you to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity you witness.

“By reporting information, this not only helps inform us of potential criminal behaviour but it can lead to robust action being taken and offenders being brought to justice.

“We are pleased with the great work done in recent years to ensure offenders are brought to justice.

“We are not complacent and we are doing all we can to make sure that people feel safe in their homes.”

Got information?

- Report online at www.cumbria.police.uk/report-it
- Phone 101
- Dial 999 in an emergency
- You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

You can find more crime-prevention advice here: Crime prevention advice | Cumbria Police





Neighbourhood Policing Awards 2023



🏆 Officers from Cumbria Police's Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been recognised for their hard work within our communities at the neighbourhood policing awards.

The awards were presented during Cumbria Constabulary's Neighbourhood Policing Conference which was held on November 23rd.

Eight awards were presented to officers and PCSOs by Assistant Chief Constable Dave Stalker and Deputy and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Mike Johnson, in recognition of their contribution towards neighbourhood policing over the past year.

For Copeland:

- Chief Superintendent's Neighbourhood Policing Leadership Award

Inspector Richard Smillie, Copeland Neighbourhood Policing Team has been recognised for his leadership of the Copeland Neighbourhood Policing Team. Richard has been recognised for continuously leading by example . His attention to detail and commitment has resulted in his teams performing to a consistently high standard.

Richard has been described as a role model, not only for his team but his colleagues, he is always willing to help and do that bit extra. He is an inspiration to his team making them feel valued, enabling them to deliver an excellent service to the communities in Copeland.

Speaking on the awards Assistant Chief Constable Dave Stalker said "The neighbourhood policing teams are a huge part of day-to-day policing in Cumbria.

"These awards have highlighted just some of the excellent hard work that our teams carry out on a daily basis to address community issues and improve confidence within local communities.

"Congratulations to all those that won awards and thank you to all of our Neighbourhood Policing Team officers and PCSOs across the force for their hard work over the past year".

Cumbria's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Peter McCall, said: "Neighbourhood Policing Teams really are the forefront of Cumbria Constabulary and continuously represent the Force in our communities day-to-day.

"They work incredibly hard to boost confidence in the police with residents and provide support when and where they can in communities.

"Awards ceremonies such as this, really are a chance to celebrate the work of the NPTs – they have achieved a great deal over the last year and I know that they will continue to do so in the future.

"Congratulations to all the winners – the awards were very well deserved." **Read more here.**

Drinking last night?

You may still be over the limit this morning.

Time is the only way to get alcohol out of your system.

Call 0800 555 111.

100% anonymous. Always.

[Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org)]





StreetSafe is a service that allows you to report safety concerns in public places without giving us your name.

This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing you.

Report an issue here: StreetSafe | Cumbria Police



Interested in joining the police?

We are currently open to Police Officer, Special Constable and Police Community Support Officer applications.

For more information please visit www.cumbria.police.uk/careers.



Your local officers

Want to know who your local officers are?

Simply go to our website - www.cumbria.police.uk

Scroll down the home page and you can browse different areas to see who your local team are - or enter your postcode.

Not only will you be able to find out who your named local officers and PCSOs are, you will also be able to view our local policing priorities and details of any meetings or events we will be attending.





In other news

Cumbria Police: Operational activity during December



Officers from Cumbria Constabulary will be increasing proactive patrols and working hard over the festive period to ensure criminals are caught and communities are kept safe.

As the festive season fast approaches, Cumbria Police will be carrying out a series of operations and campaigns, which cover a range of topics including:

- Personal safety – keeping safe on nights out and at events
- Domestic abuse
- Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Drink and drug driving
- Burglary prevention
- Retail crime
- Fraud prevention and online safety
- Pursuing and targeting priority offenders

Read more here.

Hundreds of drivers will be breathalysed and tested for drugs this month - will we catch you?

Cumbria Police is urging people to plan ahead so they don't find themselves drunk and behind the wheel this Christmas and New Year.

Officers, including from Cumbria Police's dedicated Roads Policing Unit, are targeting those who are behind the wheel whilst unfit through drink or drugs as part of the Constabulary Christmas and New Year road safety campaign.

Inspector Jack Stabler said: "Whilst the vast majority of drivers on our roads are careful and conscientious, the fact is that we know our officers are going to find scores of drivers over the coming weeks who are unfit through drink or drugs.

“In many ways, those we catch are the lucky ones as there is a significant likelihood that we have caught them before they have caused devastation and potentially tragedy to themselves or other road users.

“There is no excuse for being intoxicated behind the wheel and anyone who is caught can expect a significant driving ban as a minimum.”

If you are stopped by police and found to be over the limit for drink or drugs, you could lose your license, your job, be fined thousands of pounds and potentially be sent to prison.

Someone who causes death by careless or dangerous driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs could be sent to prison, with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. **Read more here.**

Domestic abuse campaign urges anyone suffering to seek help

Police are urging anyone suffering domestic abuse to reach out and seek help, with research highlighting the tragic impact such crimes can have.

National figures show three women per week are murdered by a current or former partner.

Recent analysis by academics, charities and victims’ groups also point to the further impact of these offences.

Figures suggest the number of women’s deaths linked to domestic abuse rises to 10 per week when suicide of people affected is also taken into account.

These national findings feed into Cumbria Constabulary’s overall approach to tackling these offences every day, with our officers helping those suffering domestic abuse all-year-round.

Due to a historical rise in offences as Christmas approaches, we are emphasising at this time of year the importance of coming forward and seeking help if you are suffering abuse.

Nobody should have to experience such offences and officers work hard around-the-clock to safeguard those at risk of abuse and to make sure perpetrators of abuse face the consequences.

Due to the busy time of year and the chance of increased incidents of abuse, we’re again highlighting the help available and pointing out that victims are never alone. **Read more here.**



Crime Figures

Further information can be found on Police.Uk

Click here to visit the website

Please note the data contained on Police.uk is not live time



OffenceGroup	Crimes	Same Period Last Year	Difference	% Change
Arson and Criminal Damage	2	8	-6	-75.0%
Burglary	0	0	0	0.0%
Drug offences	0	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	0	3	-3	-100.0%
Possession of weapons offences	0	0	0	0.0%
Public order offences	1	1	0	0.0%
Robbery	0	0	0	0.0%
Sexual offences	3	0	3	0.0%
Theft offences	9	1	8	800.0%
Vehicle Offences	0	0	0	0.0%
Violence against the person	13	14	-1	-7.1%
Total	**28**	**27**	**1**	**3.7%**



Copeland Police want you to report all anti-social behaviour and crime

Please report any incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour to us, to help us keep Copeland safe.

If a crime is in progress always call 999.

You can report crime online here

Our online Live Chat function is a new service giving you an alternative way to communicate with a Police Officer in real time. More here.

You can also phone on 101.
Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.



To receive more policing news, sign up to our other area newsletters by clicking on the link below:

