

Hello and welcome to our April edition of the newsletter. Below are some of the things that the month together with useful information for you.

### **Rural crime**

Throughout March we have had some great success in locating and recovering several items of the items had been stolen in our areas and located within a few miles. The items have included a single axle trailer. Due to the criminal activity our team and the Crewkerne and Chard NF operation over a period of a week. The theft of a digger and trailer was prevented by the Crewkerne as part of the process. Many vehicles were stopped and checked, with over a 1000 miles covered by the team over 3 nights.

### **Ilchester**

A proactive operation to stop vehicles was completed in Ilchester on 4<sup>th</sup> March, with several vehicle document offences.

### **Scams**

Royal mail – Scammers are sending text messages to mobile phones stating that a Royal Mail postage fee needs to be paid. A link will be provided and you will be asked to enter your card details within days claiming to be your bank and saying that transactions have been made. They will then try to trick you into transferring money into a ‘new’ account that they have created for you. Do not and you may have seen or heard it in the news that organised gangs are doing something called they call you and their id shows as a number that would be linked with your bank. They may tell you to cancel your card and the number will match that on your phone. Do not cancel or create a new account over the phone. If you are told there has been a fraudulent transaction on your phone that you either hang up and call the person.

team, PCSO William Mortimer and PCSO Louise Perry.

### **Caravan registration**

CaravanID Limited is one of the latest companies to join Secured by Design (SBD), the official a community driven crime prevention and property recovery initiative tackling caravan and motorhome crime. CaravanID provides its members with unique and highly visible ID markings for their vehicles that can be linked to a central database facility, offering identification and usage information to members, police and relevant parties. Members can update their profiles in real-time ensuring the information about their van is always up to date. Registered police officers gives them the ability to check any members van quickly and contact the relevant authority.

CaravanID members receive a pack containing up to 16 decals (60 individual stickers) bearing their unique identification number. These can be affixed to the front, rear, both sides, roof and windows of your van for easy identification. The external decals are designed to be seen and read from a reasonable distance. The rear decal (available in 7 colours) is highly reflective making it really stand out. The rear decal is ideally placed to be seen by traffic cameras or police patrols on elevated vantage points.

With so many identifying marks, the caravan is a lot less attractive to opportunist thieves who are deterred from removing the decals or risk being caught with an easily identifiable stolen van.

CaravanID's Secure Caravan and Motorhome Registration Scheme have achieved the Police Endorsement. Find out more about it here: <https://www.securedbydesign.com/member-companies/sbd-members?view=companydetail&account=0011i00000vYKXwAAO>