



# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Dear Valued Volunteers,

I am happy to have an opportunity to extend a greeting to each and every one of you as esteemed members of our dedicated volunteer community. Your presence is not only valued but cherished as you stand as pillars of support for the Avon and Somerset Police and to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

Your commitment to community safety does not go unnoticed. Hailing from diverse backgrounds, places, and professions, you bring with you a wealth of essential knowledge and invaluable perspectives. This rich tapestry of experiences enhances police work, fostering community safety, and fortifying the bonds between the police and the public they serve.

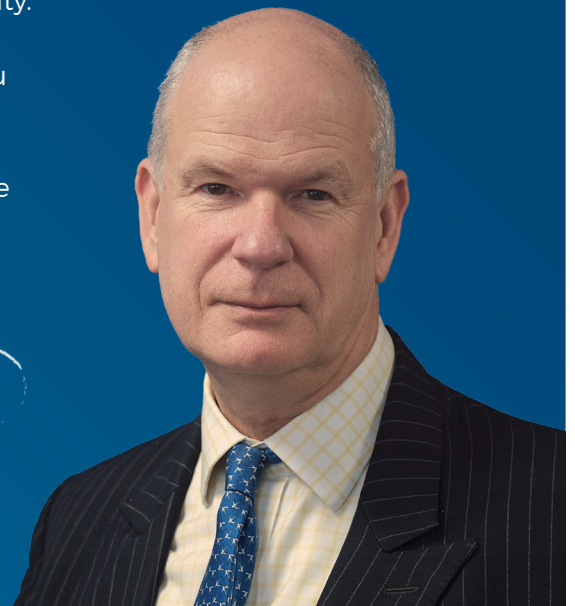
In the true spirit of the Peelian Principle of Citizen Policing, you embody the essence of collaborative partnership and shared responsibility.

I extend my deepest gratitude to you for the time and effort you so generously give.

Thank you for making a tangible difference in the lives of people across Avon and Somerset.

Fare thee well,

**Mark Shelford,**  
Avon and Somerset PCC



**OUR VALUES**

OPENNESS



PARTNERSHIP



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## OPCC Volunteer Schemes

### The Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme

Weekly unannounced visits allow our ICVs to detainees have access to necessary facilities and are treated respectfully.

In 2022-23 they conducted 136 visits to 510 individuals.

They have been doing great work to encourage an 'Offer Culture,' rather than a 'request' one, especially concerning healthcare access.

22   
Volunteers

### Independent Scrutiny of Police Complaints Panel (ISPCP)

The Panel is made up of a selection of volunteers who review and scrutinise police complaints and highlights good practice.

The Independent Scrutiny of Police Complaints Panel is chaired by volunteers and meets quarterly to randomly select and 'dip sample' complaints, assessing them for efficiency, fairness, transparency, and service to the public.

12   
Volunteers

### The Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers (ISoPP) Panel

The ISoPP Panel is made up of local people from a diverse range of backgrounds who monitor the use of force by the police such as the use of a Taser.

Every four months the Panel review 60+ cases, watching the Body Worn Video (BWV) on each case. Feedback and recommendations for learning are sent to the Police.

For example, the panel identified poor positioning of BWV cameras worn by Firearms officers. This led to fixings are being issued to attach cameras to helmets.

16   
Volunteers

For more information: [avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved](https://avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved)

## Police Volunteer Programme

The Police Support  
Volunteer Programme has...

145   
Volunteers

...and in 2023 they gave...

15,891   
hours of support time

We have volunteers undertaking a wide variety of roles including:

- Chaplains
- Cybercrime Volunteers
- Exam Invigilators
- Cadet Leaders
- History and Heritage Volunteers
- Volunteer Grooms
- Role Players
- Chaperones
- Drivers

We have a team of volunteer drivers who last year gave us **5500** hours,

They relocate an average of 140 police vehicles each month for maintenance and servicing, as well as moving paperwork, evidence and uniform for officers.

VIPER Chaperone volunteers who escort and support witnesses through identification procedures, instead of police officers who would otherwise have to do this.

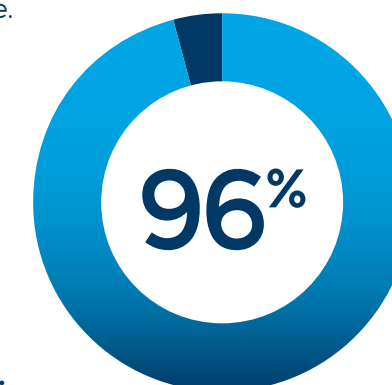
They have saved over 500 hours of police officer time during 2023!

Some of our volunteers bring specialist expertise into the force.

We have a small number of cyber volunteers who have specialist skills and offer their professional experiences gained in the private sector to enhance the knowledge and work of the Force's Cyber Team.

14 volunteer chaplains who provide support, guidance and assistance to officers and police staff, often after traumatic, upsetting or negative experiences, focusing on their wellbeing.

**Police support volunteers said they feel valued by the force.**



For more information: [avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/jobs-and-volunteering/volunteer](https://avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/jobs-and-volunteering/volunteer)





## Watch Schemes



### Horse and Farm Watch

The Horse and Farm Watch Scheme currently has nearly 7000 members and through information sharing, communication alerts, and PCSO visits the scheme:

- Reduces local opportunities for rural crime
- Reinforces the community spirit so that everyone can contribute towards the protection of their property by mutual co-operation and communication
- Provides early warning systems in farming and countryside areas
- Improves the intelligence flow between the agricultural communities and the police.

To join contact [ruralandwildlifeunit@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:ruralandwildlifeunit@avonandsomerset.police.uk).

### Neighbourhood Watch

Over the past 12 months there have been a steady increase in the number of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) schemes, several have shown that more and more tend to cover larger areas than they would have previously.

A recent example in Wellington, Somerset is expected to cover more than 200 households and a block of flats, this is particularly good for sharing Community Alert (CA) messages to a wide audience. As we know NHW is and continues to be a great crime prevention asset in the police toolbox. We currently have in the region of 4300 schemes covering around 117,000 households.

We are fortunate to have many active Neighbourhood watch schemes across Avon and Somerset who are linked into the police. The schemes:

- Shows that members of a community are looking out for each other
- Keeps people up-to-date with what is going on in their area
- It can help to prevent and tackle crime in your community

For more information head to: [avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/neighbourhood-watch-scheme](https://avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/neighbourhood-watch-scheme)

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## Volunteering in Action: Community SpeedWatch

On a cold November afternoon, PCC Mark Shelford was out with his local Community SpeedWatch, of which he is an active member. The volunteers head to a long straight strip of road on the outskirts of Bath, identified as a dangerous speeding hotspot.

Armed with thermoses of tea, hi-vis jackets, and a speed gun, the team get to work scanning vehicle speeds. Information about speeding vehicles is passed on to the police, who then send a warning letter along with advice on changing driving behaviour.



Nationally, each year, drivers who speed or travel too fast for the road conditions contribute to more than 10,000 collisions, resulting in 345 deaths and 3,388 serious injuries. In Avon and Somerset, there was an increase in fatal road traffic collisions.

Fifty-six people have sadly been killed in 48 collisions, while the previous year saw 44 fatal RTCs, an increase of nine percent.

Up and down the country, Community SpeedWatch volunteers are out in our communities helping to combat speeding.

To find out if there is a Community SpeedWatch Scheme in your area or request to set one up, email [CommunitySpeedWatch@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:CommunitySpeedWatch@avonandsomerset.police.uk).



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