



Christmas Crime Prevention

Safer Gloucester is hosting its annual Christmas Crime Prevention event in King's Walk on Wednesday November 16th. Please come along and have a chat with us - there will be officers from many different agencies to give advice and information, including Police, Police Authority, City Council, Gloucester City Homes, Probation Trust, Neighbourhood Watch Association, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence agencies and Drug and Alcohol Services.

Once again we will be handing out crime prevention calendars with a seasonal message for each month of the year. The 2012 calendar has an Olympic theme.

As we approach Christmas, please remember - don't leave your beautifully wrapped Christmas presents



under the tree in the full view of windows or on display in cars when shopping, where opportunist burglars can see.

Also, remember to dispose of any packaging carefully in the new year - don't let the burglar know what delightful presents are inside your house by displaying empty cardboard boxes outside awaiting collection with the refuse.

Now that the clocks have gone back an hour, please remember to leave a light on in your property so that your home is not in darkness

when you return from work; use dusk to dawn light bulbs or timer switches (both available at low cost from Bearland Police Station) to illuminate your home.

If you are away over Christmas, remember to inform trusted neighbours and ask them to keep an eye on your home. Be sure to cancel any deliveries of papers or milk and ask a neighbour to collect any post on a regular basis. Use timer switches for lights, television and radio to make it look as if you are home.

Update on Gloucester Disturbances

The August Safer Gloucester Newsletter included a full report of the disturbances in the city and the actions taken by agencies to ensure that people were able to go about their daily work the following day without disruption.

Since the disturbances, in the early hours of Wednesday 10th August 2011, the police have relentlessly pursued their investigations and are grateful to members of the public who have provided information leading to arrests of offenders. On 1st November, the 40th arrest was made in connection with the disturbances.

Members of the public are still urged to telephone if they recognise anyone in the images in the Gloucester disorder most wanted gallery, which can be viewed on the home page of the Gloucestershire Constabulary website www.gloucestershire.police.uk. If you do recognise the people in any of the photos you should now ring 101 and quote incident number 123 of August 18 and the number of the relevant photo.

Operation Scorpion

Following the disturbances, Gloucestershire Constabulary launched a new offensive on crime in the county. The 1st September saw the start of Operation Scorpion - policing with a sting in its tail, to clamp down on violence, disorder, drug and alcohol related crime and anti social behaviour.

The operation has seen additional officers, some of whom are traditionally based in non-visible roles, take to the streets to deal with crimes as they take place and provide additional visible policing.

The operation is flexible in order to respond to any intelligence about offences either taking place or likely to take place on any day of the week. Across the city, officers have carried out warrants at addresses believed of being involved in criminal activity. Suspected drugs and a firearm have been seized and people arrested for a variety of offences ranging from possession of drugs to violent offences and breach of court orders.

At the end of October, at the end of a week of targeted activity, street stencils were used to leave a temporary reminder of the operation.



The stencils were applied by professionals using chalk spraying at 30 locations city wide. This is a new idea for promoting police activity and we would welcome any feedback from residents about this by emailing cdpartnership@gloucester.gov.uk.

The feedback from the community for Operation Scorpion generally has been great as officers have been showing them that they are taking strong action to reduce this criminality in the city and make it safe for everyone.

As social media websites were widely used by people during the recent disorder, Gloucestershire Police are updating Twitter with information, photos and videos showing how the operation is going. Residents can follow the updates on Operation Scorpion by searching for #opscorpion on www.twitter.co.uk or through the police website www.gloucestershire.police.uk. News, photos and videos are frequently posted.

Alcohol Awareness Week

Safer Gloucester's Christmas Crime Prevention event falls within Alcohol Awareness Week. This year Alcohol Concern are raising awareness of the social cost of alcohol with some key facts like the annual cost of alcohol harm to the National Health Service is £2.7 billion, alcohol related crime and disorder is thought to cost the taxpayer between £8bn - £13bn every year and more than 100 children, including children as young as five contact Childline every week with worries about their parent's drinking or drug use.

To learn more about the campaign, checkout the website www.alcoholconcern.org.uk.

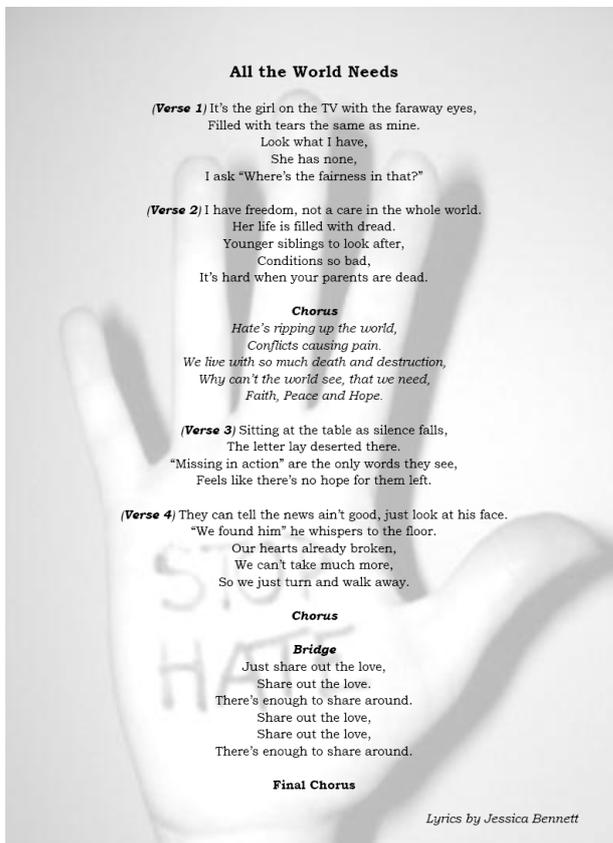
If you think you may have a problem with your alcohol consumption and would like help, contact the Independence Trust on 0845 863 8323 or www.independencetrust.co.uk.



Hate Crime

A hate crime is defined as any hate incident which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate. Safer Gloucester takes hate incidents and crimes very seriously and currently has a multi agency group to tackle hate issues and raise awareness.

The Gloucestershire Hate Crime Group recently organised a competition in schools inviting pupils to submit entries reflecting their interpretation of hate crime. The five winning entries will be displayed at the Safer Gloucester Christmas Crime Prevention Stand in King's Walk on November 16th and includes the song lyrics written by Bournside School's Jessica Bennett.



Anti Bullying Week

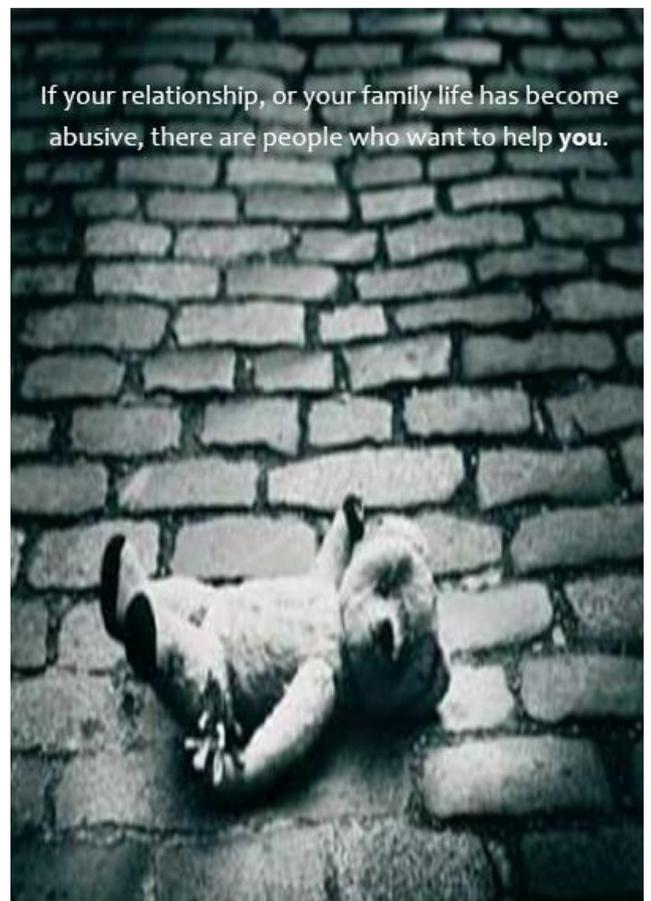
As part of anti bullying week w.c 14th November 2011, Safer Gloucester has produced a bullying advice card for children and young people. The advice card will be available at the Christmas Crime Prevention event in King's Walk on 16th November and can also be downloaded from the Safer Gloucester website under advice and information.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can be physical violence, sexual violence, psychological or financial control and affects at least 1 in 4 women at some time in their lifetime. Domestic abuse also occurs in same sex relationships.

Many women will have suffered physical or sexual violence over forty times before reporting it to the police. There are many services available to help and support victims of domestic abuse including safety planning, help with housing and benefits advice through to support with the court process if this is needed. The Police take all reports of domestic abuse very seriously.

Safer Gloucester will be marking Domestic Abuse Awareness Week (w.c. 21st November 2011) with the launch of a new booklet of Services available in Gloucestershire to support victims of domestic abuse. The booklet will be available at the Christmas Crime Prevention stand on 16th November but can also be downloaded from the Safer Gloucester website http://www.safergloucester.co.uk/Advice_and_Information/ .



Social Networking Safety

More and more people are using social networking sites to stay in touch with friends and family, sharing photos and messages. However, it is absolutely essential when using sites like Facebook and Twitter to ensure that you protect yourself online and do not give out any information that identifies you personally, such as your date of birth or address.

Gloucestershire Constabulary were receiving an increasing number of calls from people who were being harassed on Facebook or Twitter and received messages that were causing them anxiety. If you receive any abusive messages from another user, you can block that person and remove them from your friends list.

Safer Gloucester has produced a Safer Social Networking advice card with more advice and information on how to stay safe that can be downloaded from the partnership website: http://www.safergloucester.co.uk/Advice_and_Information/Social_Networking_Safety.aspx .

Moreland “Have Your Say” Event

In the summer, members of Safer Gloucester took part in a Moreland “Have your say” event, speaking to residents of Seymour Road. Of those residents spoken to, 89% said that they felt safe or very safe when walking out alone in the daytime and 53% felt safe or very safe when walking out alone after dark.

One of the key problem issues for residents was the speeding on Seymour Road which often caused damage to parked vehicles along the road. On 1st November, partnership officers took part in a speeding operation where 47 vehicles were stopped for exceeding the 20 mph speed limit.

Further speeding operations will take place in the future.



The full report card will be delivered to residents in Seymour Road later in November.

Do You Have An Old Bike That You Don't Want?

Gloucestershire Bike Project is a not for profit social enterprise, currently run by volunteers and based in Stroud and Gloucester. Their newly open Gloucester workshop is at Units 7a & b Woodcock Estate, 227 Barton Street, Gloucester. They run bike repair and maintenance workshops for people from difficult to reach groups, like people recovering from addictions, many of whom are long term unemployed, are or have been involved with the criminal justice system or have mental health concerns. There would then be the opportunity for anyone who had participated in that scheme to come back and volunteer.

Gloucestershire Bike Project use bikes donated by the public to teach the participants. They believe that they are not only helping their groups gain the skills needed to repair and maintain their bikes, but also helping them build confidence and self-belief. Through offering a taste of the workplace environment in a less pressurised way, those furthest removed from the job market are helped to gain valuable work experience. They also offer those participating (and people from the local community), the opportunity to come and volunteer at the project, teaching them more advanced bike mechanics, possibly training up to a nationally recognised vocational qualification.



The workshop will be open for young people and adults, who may have stolen a bike, committed other offences, or have been behaving anti-socially. The participants will work on a bike for the project, which can be sold to fund the work and then they are able to work on a bike for themselves to keep - enabling them to give something back and earn a bike legitimately. There would also be the opportunity for people who were interested to come and volunteer with the project, with the aim of helping divert them from the Criminal Justice System involvement by giving them a positive activity to be involved in, which would, for some, be their first positive learning experience.

The Project Coordinator is Maureen Parker who can be contacted by mobile: 07858416220 or by email: maureen@gloucestershirebikeproject.co.uk If you have an old bike that you no longer need, please contact Maureen who can arrange for its collection.