

# South West Fife Police Community Newsletter



## Your Newsletter

South West Fife Community Policing Team has decided to produce a new monthly electronic newsletter to help to get you to know the team, keep you updated about police activity in your area, and to offer practical safety and security advice.

We have developed this newsletter after the restrictions of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic meant a reduction in contact between police, Community Councils and other groups in the community. This has led us to consider how we need to better share information with our communities

when there are fewer opportunities to meet face to face.

Your newsletter will not replace personal contact with police but we hope that it will be a worthwhile supplement.

The newsletter is produced “in-house” (no graphic designers in here) so occasionally publication may be impacted by operational matters. We will try to release a newsletter around the end of each month and would love for this to be shared far and wide.



## Your Team

In this first newsletter we will introduce you to the team serving your communities. Keep an eye out, and if you bump into the officers mentioned, please say hello!

Based at Dalgety Bay Police Station, the team consists of a community team and five response teams, supervised by six sergeants and a Community Inspector.

We also have access to a number of specialist services, including dog handlers, road policing, CID, Public Protection and much, much more.

Each ward has two dedicated officers who will generally be your points of contact for community policing.

You can learn a bit more about your community officers overleaf.

**October 2021**

### **Your Area**

Our staff are deployed by wards, and for simplicity we may refer to these occasionally.

**Ward 1: West Fife & Coastal Villages** (includes Newmills, Culross, Cairneyhill, Torryburn, Low Valleyfield, Oakley, High Valleyfield, Blairhall, Kincardine, Carnock, Gowkhill and Saline).

**Ward 5: Rosyth** (also includes Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown and Crombie)

**Ward 6: Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay** (also includes North Queensferry, Hillend & Aberdour)

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### **Inside this issue:**

<i>Meet the Team</i>	2-5
<i>Ward 1 Update</i>	6
<i>Ward 5 Update</i>	7
<i>Ward 6 Update</i>	8
<i>Looking Ahead</i>	9
<i>Safety &amp; Security</i>	10
<i>Contacts/ Resources</i>	11

## Ward 1 Community Officers

### PC Sandy Thomson

PC Alexander (Sandy) Thomson has been in the police for almost 26 years. Originally from the West Fife area he has literally worked everywhere from Campbeltown in deepest Argyll to Maidstone in Kent. He eventually resettled in Fife in 2016, working on response teams based at Cowdenbeath and Dalgety Bay before joining the Community team in January 2020.

In his spare time Sandy enjoys spending time with his family and is a keen motorcyclist.



### Cheerio PC Chandler!

SWF Community Team bid farewell to PC Kevin Chandler around the end of August 2021.

Kev was a member of the Community Team for almost 8 years, using his extensive knowledge of the West Fife Villages area (where he grew up, went to school and continues to live) to great success, both in the fight against crime and in his involvement with community initiatives.



Kev is a very popular member of the community that he was proud to serve in but has decided it is time for a change, and he is off to pastures new, working at Edinburgh Airport.

Kev is known for his love of football, and was recently involved (along with Sandy) in delivering weekly football sessions to young people in Oakley. We wish him well.

### PC Tina Paton

PC Tina Paton previously served as a special constable before taking the leap and joining the regular police in 2011. She spent her entire service on response teams in the West of Fife before joining the Community Team on secondment in August 2021.

You might hear Tina before you see her (!) but she has a heart of gold and a real passion for her work.

Tina says that she is most looking forward to learning about various aspects of community policing and making a difference in our local schools, housing and rural areas. She is also looking forward to building relationships with partner agencies and collaborating, demonstrating her commitment to her Ward 1 communities.

In Tina's spare time she likes to keep fit. In 2018 she ran the Stirling half marathon, but latterly is never away from the gym. Tina also enjoys painting and family time.



## Ward 5 Community Officers

### PC Louis McGuire

PC Louis McGuire initially joined Lothian & Borders Police in 2009, working in various response and community policing roles in Edinburgh City until he joined Fife Division in 2015. He has since spent his service in West Fife, working in response teams before moving to an Alcohol & Violence Reduction role, and ultimately to the SWF Community Team in 2020.

Louis spends his spare time with his family and has his hands full with two lively boys.



### Remember these guys?..



PC Ian McArthur was a stalwart of SWF Community Team in Rosyth for over a decade between 2009-2019. He saw multiple supervisors and colleagues come and go before deciding it was time to hang up his spurs and take up a new role.

Ian is now the Community Safety Officer for West Fife, based at Dunfermline Police Station. He will often be found visiting businesses and homes across West Fife providing safety and security advice, and we can look forward to his input in future editions of this newsletter.

PC James (Jim) Bell joined the police in 2011 and spent his entire service in West Fife until January 2021. Jim joined the SWF Community Team in 2016, alternating between wards 5 and 6.

Jim has a number of specialisms under his belt, meaning that he is often called away to support events across the country. He is a wanderer at heart, a keen cyclist and hillwalker in his spare time, and 2021 has seen Jim take up a new police role in Aviation Security. This is a secondment and Jim may return to SWF Community Team in late 2021.



### PC Simon Large

PC Simon Large joined the police in 2015 after a successful career in retail management. He has spent his service to date within West Fife, building on his experience and knowledge of the local area. He has earned a reputation for his commitment and diligence, and in 2021 he joined SWF Community Team on secondment.

PC Chandler's departure in August has cemented Simon's position as a permanent member of the team, where he will continue to work alongside Louis.

Simon is an avid rugby fan and his favorite time of year is when the 6 Nations begins.





## Ward 6 Community Officers

### PC Richard Duncan

PC Richard Duncan joined Fife Constabulary in 2011 and so far, has spent his entire service in the West Fife area.

In June 2016, Richard returned to the South West Fife Community Team on a three month secondment, but secured another permanent posting when one became available. Since then, Richard has been one of the Community Officers for Aberdour, Dalgety Bay, Hillend, Inverkeithing and North Queensferry.

After being asked to “tweet” once several years ago, Richard took ownership of the South West Fife Police Twitter account (@SWFifePolice) and is currently the main contributor. The number of followers has risen from just over 1000 to nearly 5000, meaning our information and appeals for information reach a wider audience.



### PC Hollie Higgins



PC Hollie Higgins joined the police in 2019 and quickly gained a reputation for her dedication and enthusiasm. She spent her probationary period working in South West Fife, learning the job and becoming familiar with the area.

Hollie joined the SWF Community Team on secondment in 2021 and is enjoying gaining experience in different aspects of Policing and having the opportunity to engage further with the public, building relationships within the community.

In her spare time Hollie is a keen gardener, although if her picture (left) is anything to judge her methods by I wouldn't let her near my prize roses!

# Driving the Desk

## Sergeant Kate Blackwell

Sergeant Kate Blackwell has over 14 years police service, all of which has been in West Fife. Prior to joining the regular police she also served as a special constable.

She has worked in various roles, predominantly within response and community policing, and was temporarily promoted in 2015 to sergeant at Dalgety Bay. She has worked as a constable and sergeant with community policing in South West Fife on and off since 2014, and in January 2019 she became the permanent Community Policing Sergeant for South West Fife.

Kate's forte is in partnership working, and you will be doing well to catch her when she isn't either on a call or MS Teams meeting during her working day!

Kate has previously achieved national recognition for her work relating to Open Water Safety and various initiatives that are ongoing as a result.

Out of work, Kate enjoys spending time with her friends and family. She is looking forward to taking her young son on some foreign holidays in the coming years.



## Inspector Tony Rogers



Inspector Tony Rogers joined Fife Constabulary in 2001. The early part of his service was spent in uniform and detective roles in Central Fife, prior to transferring to West Fife in 2008. Tony was promoted to response sergeant in 2009 and stationed at Dalgety Bay.

Serving as Rosyth Community Sergeant from 2011, Tony was proud to have involvement in infrastructure, industrial and defence projects during his tenure, as well as delivering various initiatives with a strong network of partners. Tony returned to response policing in 2015, and after fulfilling various temporary Inspector roles he was promoted in 2019. February 2021 saw Tony take on the role of Community Inspector for South West Fife, and it felt like something of a homecoming.

Tony is looking forward to moving beyond the restrictions caused by the pandemic and working with partners to deliver lasting improvements to the communities of South West Fife.

Away from work Tony loves the outdoors and recently finished walking a virtual Land's End to John o' Groats walk with his wife and three boys. His passion is getting out fishing on his kayak when busy family life permits!

## Ward 1 News

### Antisocial Behaviour High Valleyfield

Recent months have seen concerns being raised about antisocial behavior and misuse of drugs by individuals in the High Valleyfield area.

We listened to these concerns, making contact with residents confidentially.

Following up on this information we executed a drug search warrant at a local address, recovering almost 1500 suspected diazepam tablets. Two males aged 32 and 24 and a female aged 33 were apprehended and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

We are working closely with Fife Council Housing Officers, sharing information appropriately

PCs Sandy Thomson and Tina Paton

have increased patrols of the area and are keen to speak with anybody who has further concerns. Alternatively you can contact the officers at the following email address:

WestFifeCoastalVillages-  
CPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

You can also provide information in confidence to Crimestoppers.

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.



### Road Safety Bogside



Recent concerns raised by residents in and around Bogside have been addressed this month. PC Tina Paton has contacted colleagues in Road Policing and the Safety Camera Partnership to draw focus to a stretch of road on the A907. This has led to safety camera deployments and patrols by road policing staff.

A report has been passed to Cllr Bobby Clelland who is liaising with Fife Council in respect of the current speed limit and road layout.

### Scrambling Around

Off-road motorcycles are an ongoing cause of complaint. Whilst this is not unique to our area of Fife, or indeed our corner of Scotland, the geography of Ward 1 means that several areas are particularly suited to these activities. We do not wish to spoil anybody's fun, but off-road motorcycles and public footpaths do not mix. The national lockdown of 2020 led to increased numbers of people using the great outdoors for various purposes.

Many off-road motorcyclists are inadvertently committing various offences and we acknowledge that education is key. In an effort to keep people safe Sandy and Tina have been proactively attending problem areas and providing appropriate advice to walkers and riders alike.

Further work is planned in this area, and along with continued engagement and education, enforcement action will be considered in the event of repeat offending.





## Ward 5 News

### Vandalisms in Rosyth

PCs McGuire and Large have been working very hard during 2021 to tackle an issue of antisocial behavior and specifically vandalism locally. Whilst focused in Rosyth, this has been further reaching, perpetrated by a small group of individuals.

Louis and Simon have worked closely with the families involved, and extensive liaison is ongoing with Social Work and other agencies, ensuring that appropriate measures are taken with those responsible for this type of behavior.

Significant progress has led to a dramatic reduction in the level of vandalism and similar crimes in the area in recent months.

Looking ahead, forming positive relationships with key individuals will enable SWF Community Team to further reduce the impact of antisocial behavior locally.



### Licensing



The lifting of restrictions in relation to Coronavirus has meant a refocus on licensing conditions. Licensees have been required to negotiate a range of new and frequently changing conditions. Local officers and dedicated Licensing officers have worked together, communicating this new information and ensuring that local premises adhere to their responsibilities.

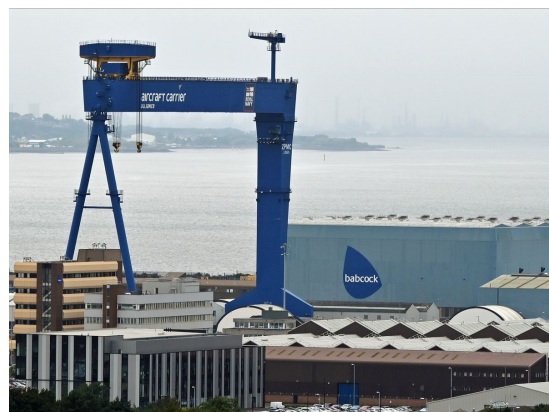
Work is ongoing in respect of some premises that are giving officers concern, and we would ask that if anybody has any information regarding licensed premises they communicate it to Louis or Simon.

Expect to see increased police activity at local licensed premises over coming months!

### Exercise Nightstar– Babcock

Officers recently took part in Exercise Nightstar, a multi-agency exercise to test the response of staff from Babcock and emergency services in a simulated major incident at Rosyth Dockyard.

Whilst different from everyday policing, exercises such as these are a vital element for organizational learning and ensuring that your emergency services are ready for the unexpected.



## Ward 6 News

### Antisocial Behaviour– Aberdour

Early 2021 saw an increase of antisocial behaviour in Aberdour, including noise nuisance and littering, incidents of vandalism and other criminality.

Aberdour Castle was targeted several times, causing understandable concern locally given the historic importance of the castle, grounds and artefacts.



PCs Richard Duncan and Hollie Higgins took the issue quite personally and stepped up patrols in the area.

Through enquiry we determined that groups of young people were travelling from far afield to socialise in Aberdour. PS Blackwell began working in partnership with education, Stagecoach Fife, Network Rail and British Transport Police to establish an “early warning system”, enabling us to respond promptly and robustly challenge any antisocial behaviour. We liaised extensively with Social Work in relation to key individuals.

Through this innovative approach, effective preventative measures have led to a significant reduction in reported crime and disorder.

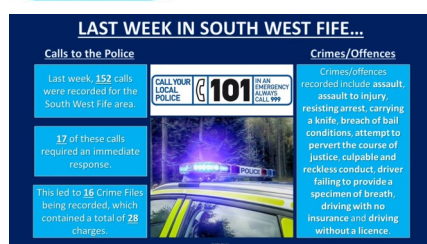
A recent vandalism to the sensory garden at Station Place has highlighted that we cannot rest on our laurels though, and Richard and Hollie will continue patrols of this area in coming weeks.

### Operation Earcon

On 17th September an incident within the Gulshan Tandoori restaurant, High Street, Inverkeithing resulted in the death of a 44 year old man. Due to ongoing investigation and legal proceedings we are unable to provide a great deal of information, but we would like to reassure the community that the tragic events that occurred last month were completely isolated, and there is no wider risk to public safety. We would also like to thank the public for their patience and assistance during the enquiry.



### Twitter



PC Richard Duncan is South West Fife's own Twitter guru. Much of the content on our twitter page comes from him. Clearly fancying himself as a journalist and/or photographer, Richard will frequently share updates about what we have been up to, topical and practical advice, and even updates about when he is going on annual leave!

Tune in for pictures of shiny police cars against scenic backdrops if for no other reason!

@SWFifePolice

@policescotland



## Looking Ahead

### COP 26

This month the UK will host the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26).

COP26 will be held over two weeks from 31 October - 12 November 2021. It will be held at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow.

World leaders, climate experts, business leaders and thousands of delegates will come together to discuss and agree actions on how to tackle climate change on a global scale.

Police Scotland have a long history of policing major events. This includes the Commonwealth Games and the European Championships, G8 and state visits.

COP26 is no exception and we look forward to playing our part in this historic event.

Our team will be involved in policing this event, so there may be some delay in gaining a response if you contact any of your community officers directly.



### Remember, remember...

It is almost that time of year again! With a vastly reduced schedule of organised events due to continuing restrictions in the face of COVID, it is anticipated that there may be an increase in impromptu firework displays or bonfires in people's gardens and other private places.

While we want everyone to enjoy themselves responsibly, we will respond robustly to reports of people using fireworks dangerously or in an antisocial manner.

It is an offence to sell a firework to a person under 18 years of age, or for those under 18 to be in possession of a firework in a public place. If you have any information regarding fireworks offences being committed please call 101.

For safety advice please visit:

<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/fireworks-safety.aspx>



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**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

# Safety & Security Advice

## Home Security

Having your home broken into is not common. There are however many ways that you can help secure your home. They don't all cost money – some are common sense and good housekeeping.

First, think about basic good housekeeping routines that aren't expensive:



- Keep your home locked at all times
- Many thieves do not need to break in at all because a door or window has been left open or unlocked
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks, under mats or anywhere else they can be easily found
- If you have a 'thumb turn' lock on the inside of a door, ensure that it cannot be accessed from outside
- Don't keep house keys and car keys on the same key ring
- Don't keep a lot of cash in the house
- Mark your property with a UV marker pen or Security DNA marking Kit - these can be bought online or in some stores
- Don't leave valuables where they can be seen through a window - for example, around the tree at Christmas time
- If you have a wall calendar, avoid having it shown near a window from where appointments can be seen - people may see when there will be no one in.
- Look for the Secured By Design accreditation on the product and register - you can place an invisible imprint of your postcode and house number on your possessions

## Secured by Design



Secured by Design (SBD) is the official police security initiative that works to improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live, work, shop and visit. SBD's product based accreditation scheme – the Police Preferred Specification - provides a recognised standard for all security products that can deter and reduce crime.

Look for the Secured by Design accreditation on your products.

## Resources

A wealth of advice and information can be found on the Police Scotland website.

Visit: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/your-home/your-house>

You can also watch a handy 5 minute video produced by Police Scotland here:

<https://youtu.be/uMNKOv1Ku28>

## How Should You Contact Us?

**Always dial 999 in an emergency. The calls are free from any phone.**

An emergency is when:

- Someone's life is at risk
- Someone is injured
- There is a fire
- Offenders are nearby
- Immediate help is needed

101 is the number to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999.

The 101 non-emergency number makes it quicker and easier for you to contact the police when you don't need an emergency response, for example to:

- speak to your local police officer
  - report a crime that's already happened, such as a theft or damage to property
  - get crime prevention advice
  - make us aware of any policing issues in your area
- 101 provides one easy-to-remember number to contact the police wherever you are in Scotland, or elsewhere in the UK.

The 101 non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you dial 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the service centre covering your area.

**In an emergency always dial 999 - when a life is in danger, a crime is in progress or a suspect is nearby.**



**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

## South West Fife Community Team

Dalgety Bay Police Station  
Regent's Way  
Dalgety Bay  
Fife  
KY11 9UY

Email (Ward 1): WestFifeCoastalVillages-CPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 5): RosythCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 6): Inverkeithing-DalgetyBayCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

**\*\* The above email addresses are not monitored 24/7 and should be used for routine contact with your community officers. Please do not report crime via these emails. \*\***

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/>

Twitter: @policescotland

Twitter: @SWFifePolice

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/policescotland](https://www.facebook.com/policescotland)



*Keeping People Safe*