

Update from the Force Crime Prevention Team

Edition 57, October 2023

## Sign up to Hampshire Alert

Hampshire Alert is a free messaging service that allows Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations keep you informed about issues in your area that are relevant to you.



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT  
**CONSTABULARY**

Once signed up you'll receive messages about crime, witness appeals and general policing activity and issues in your local area, and be able to play an active part in helping make Hampshire and the Isle of Wight a safer place to live and work. You can sign up at [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk)

## Stop Loan Sharks week 24 – 31 October

For Stop Loan Sharks week The England Illegal Money Lending Team want you to know how to spot a loan shark.

Loan sharks won't offer any paper work, will add high interest rates to any loans, and can become aggressive or threaten violence. You can make sure a lender is authorised by checking with the Financial Conduct Authority.

To report a loan shark contact Stop Loan Sharks England on 0300 555 2222 or visit [www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk) for their live chat feature.



@SLSEngland @StopLoanSharksEngland  
#SLSEngland #StooLoanSharksEngland

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## Halloween Trick or Treating



Every year, Hampshire and IOW Constabulary receives calls from dozens of people who have been frightened by trick or treat callers. It might seem like innocent fun, but it can be terrifying for elderly or vulnerable people. We want you to enjoy Halloween, but remember, not everyone wants to take part.

To download a copy of the 'Sorry, no trick or treating here' poster please click here: [2530318 - Trick or Treat A4 Flyer \(hampshire.police.uk\)](https://www.hampshire.police.uk/2530318-Trick-or-Treat-A4-Flyer)

## Check your child's chat app settings

Messaging and chat apps are a great way for a child to stay in touch with friends and family but it's important both of you are comfortable with who they are talking to. Some apps allow users to message people they don't know, so your child could receive messages from people they don't know. Most apps have settings which only allow messages to be received from people they know. With your child, make sure these settings are in place and show them how to reject requests from people they don't know. For further tips and advice on chat app safety please check out: [Chat apps | NSPCC](#)



## Keep your tools secure

We have seen a recent rise in reports of thefts of tools from vans across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Please share the following advice with professional groups and contacts you may have, especially if they are self-employed tradespeople:



- Keep your vehicle locked at all times.
- Wherever possible remove tools from the vehicle and store securely overnight. Use a lockable cabinet in the van during the day.
- Mark tools clearly with your name/company name using a suitable property marking system.
- Register tools on a property registration database such as [Immobilise](#) for free.

**Are you breaking the law?  
Remember, remember...  
It is illegal:**

**To set off fireworks  
between 11pm and 7am  
(Bonfire Night is extended  
until midnight).**

**To cause unnecessary  
suffering to animals  
with fireworks.**

**To throw or set off a  
firework in the street,  
onto a road or in a  
public place.**

**For a member of the public  
to possess a 'display' style  
firework (Category 4 fireworks)**

**To store fireworks for private  
use for more than 14 days.**

A vibrant image of fireworks exploding in the night sky, with streaks of light in various colors like purple, pink, and orange.

**Criminals use a technique called "spoofing" to make it look like you are being contacted by a trusted organisation. These scam texts can often appear in genuine message threads making them difficult to spot.**

**STOP. CHALLENGE. PROTECT.**

**TAKE FIVE**

[takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk) **TO STOP FRAUD**

A graphic of a smartphone screen displaying a text message. The message is from 'YourBank' and says: 'This is a fraud alert from YourBank. We need to verify recent transactions. Shortly you will receive a message from +447766554433 with directions'.