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## LOCAL POLICING REPORT

With the winter months once again upon us I would just like the opportunity to remind motorists to check that all lights are working properly, tyres are properly inflated, wipers and washer bottles working and that the battery is in good condition. If we are in for a cold spell a little preparation now could save a lot of trouble later. It is probably a good idea to keep a few essentials in the car such as a spare blanket, gloves, extra clothing, torch, mobile phone etc. The summer floods showed how easy it can be for motorists to get stranded for hours on end so please prepare for any eventuality.

For those of you on two wheels please try to wear high visibility or light coloured clothing at night and make sure you have lights that work and are bright enough to be seen by drivers.

It's not just shop owners who want your money at Christmas so please be careful when out shopping, keep your purse or wallet secure at all times, don't let others see your pin number and try to use cash machines which are in well lit and well used areas. Likewise try to leave your car in well lit and well used car parks and, most importantly, don't leave any valuables on display.

Believe it or not the chances of being a victim of crime are slim and you can reduce those odds even further by taking these few simple measures.

When it comes to Police Christmas messages the biggest one has got to be Don't Drink and Drive. This year is no different but I would also like to highlight the growing problem of heavy or "binge" drinking by youngsters. Besides the health risks there is the high probability of coming to the attention of the Police for anti social behaviour or criminal acts. If you are a parent or guardian of a young person I ask that you advise them of the dangers and take what steps you can to prevent easy access to alcohol in your home during the festive period. Unfortunately its getting more common for youngsters to take alcohol from home to consume elsewhere.

On a final note. By the time you read this work should have started on the Library, please note that parking will be more restricted in the area.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Mark, Lucy, Jemma.

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