

## **POLICE ADVOCATES REPORT 2025/6**

Councillors Tom Holway and George Beable have attended three of the Police Commissioner's half day Seminars during the past twelve months. The subjects have included actions being taken by the various branches of the Devon and Cornwall Police to combat serious crime, drugs and alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour and shoplifting.

There are also monthly Teams briefings by our local Totnes Division Inspector Ben Shardlow. These help to flag up any trends of a criminal nature that are currently being reported. For example, there were numerous reports of Evri deliveries not being received in the South Hams around the Christmas period and a national criminal element was suspected of being responsible. Another activity that the police and ourselves should be vigilant for, is the widely reported "County Lines" drug distribution, which often involves a vulnerable person being targeted by drug dealers and finding that he has new "friends" who move in for a short period to sell drugs in the area – the so-called "cuckooing".

Crime figures for our county are lower than the national average and, thankfully, Ugborough Parish can be considered to be a relatively crime free area. However, we should be all aware of scam emails and rogue traders offering to repair roofs or to do some tarmac renewal on drives.

Please remember to contact the police to report anything that you think is suspicious and, if you wish to remain anonymous, you can report a potential crime to Crimestoppers on 0800555111 without the need to identify yourself