



DIDCOT & WALLINGFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dec 25 - FEB 26



Welcome to the Neighbourhood Team's 2nd quarter newsletter.

Everyone at Didcot & Wallingford Neighbourhood Policing Team would like to extend our warmest festive cheer, and wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a happy new year. We hope you have all had an amazing year, and that the coming year brings you more joy and happiness!

We are keen to continue sharing information with you all about current trends and challenges that are affecting our communities and invite feedback from parents about the issues that matter the most to you and your children, as well as offering advice on how to manage issues at present.

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice, you may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll

If you can get out, wait for help and keep as still as possible, keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to 'KEEP STILL' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

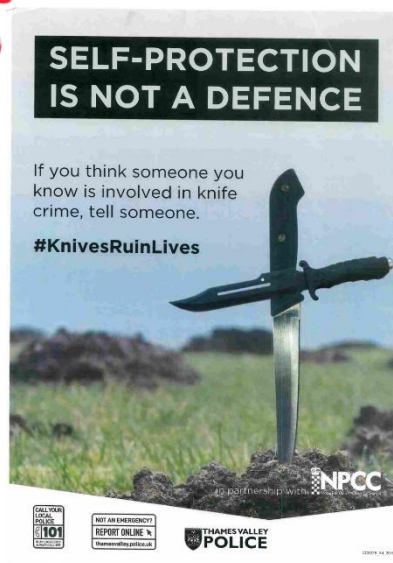
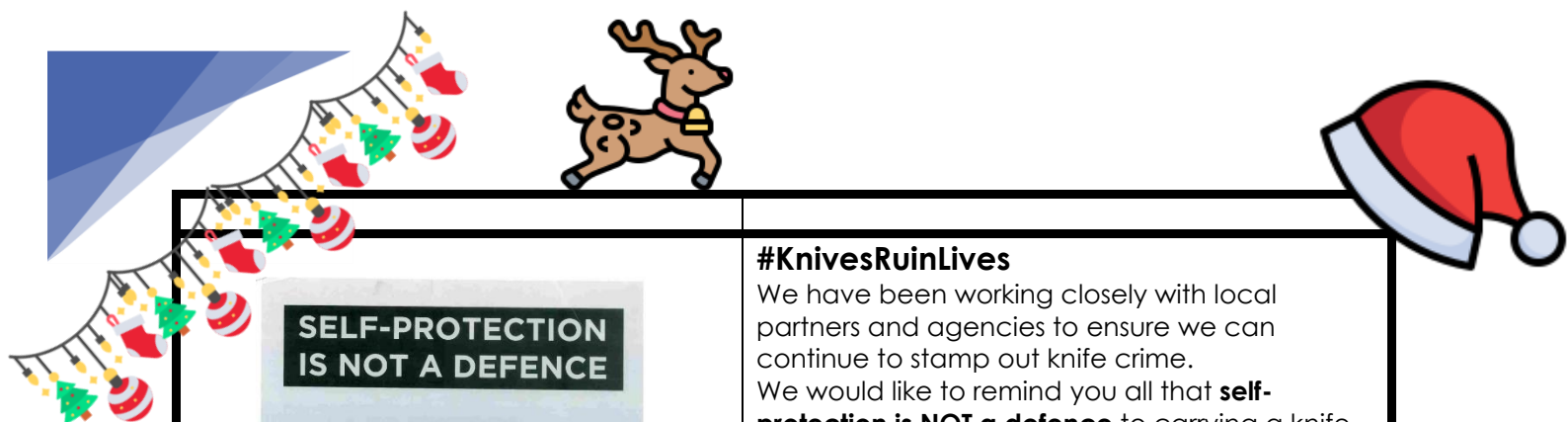
StayWise

ICE IS NOT NICE – THINK TWICE!

As the colder months arrive, we would like to remind everyone of the dangers of frozen water. Although frozen bodies of water are a lovely sight, under no circumstances, should anyone go on to, or near to frozen water.

Unfortunately, we receive lots of calls over these months of people, mostly children, going on to frozen water. The risks involved of doing this is significant, and can result in serious harm. Ice is not nice, and should you fall through, there is a serious risk to your welfare.

We hope you can enjoy these winter months in a safe and responsible way!



#KnivesRuinLives

We have been working closely with local partners and agencies to ensure we can continue to stamp out knife crime.

We would like to remind you all that **self-protection is NOT a defence** to carrying a knife.

It has been proven that if you carry a knife, you are more likely to be hurt or threatened by someone else.

If you believe that someone you know is involved in knife crime, tell someone.

It is NOT worth the risk. One small action could lead to a detrimental impact on multiple peoples lives, and could see you facing a prison sentence.



THINK – BICYCLE SAFETY

With the dark nights continuing and cycling ever growing (especially with those gifted over Christmas), we would like to make sure everyone remembers to be safe when on their bikes.

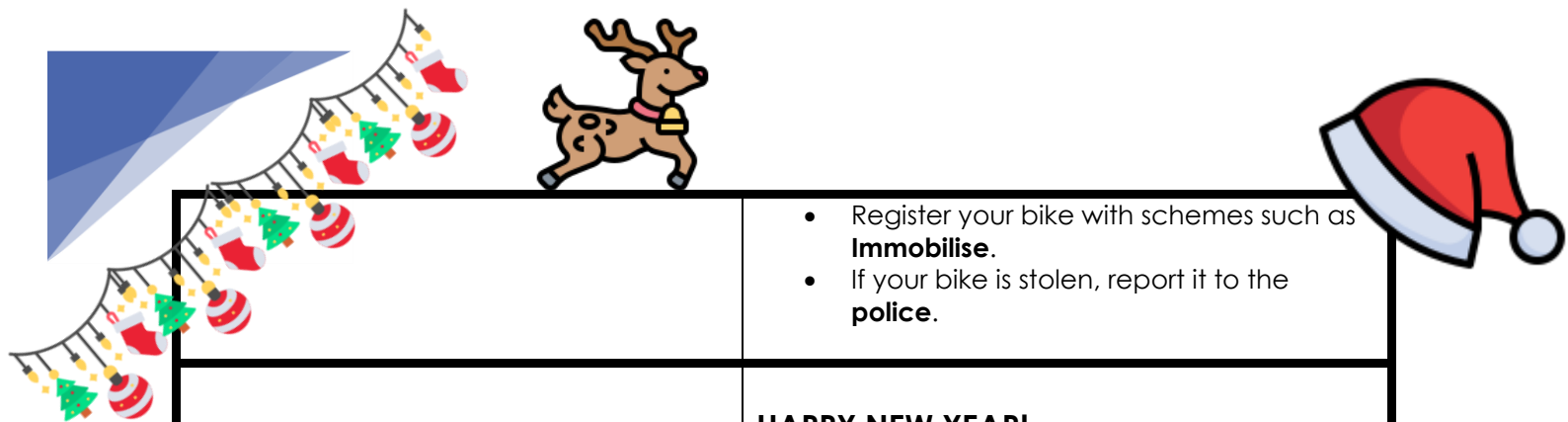
There are some key things to remember to help you keep safe:

- Use front white lights and rear **red** lights.
- Make sure **YOU** are visible (reflective clothing, reflective helmet etc).
- **Give space** to other road users – looking out for others, is also looking out for yourself.
- **Slow down** – this will give you enough time to assess everything around you.
- **ALWAYS** wear a helmet – safety beats fashion!

As well as these tips to keep yourselves and others safe, why not also keep your prized possession safe from theft?

There are some simple tips to help you with this:

- Fit a **good bike lock** and attach your bike to something secure.
- **ALWAYS lock your bicycle** – even if leaving it for a short time.
- Make note of your bikes **serial number**.
- Have your bikes frame **security marked**.
- Keep your bike in a secure garage or shed when at home.



- Register your bike with schemes such as **Immobilise**.
- If your bike is stolen, report it to the **police**.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New years eve is a time for celebration, and happiness which we hope can be done safely.

To help with the safety of all, and to ensure no offences are being committed we would like to remind you of the following in the lead up to New Years Eve:

It is an **offence** for:

- any person to throw, cast, or fire any fireworks in or into any highway, street, thoroughfare, or public place.
- a person under the age of 18 years to possess an 'adult' firework in a public place. An 'adult' firework is any firework except for caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents.
- anyone other than a fireworks professional to be in possession of a Category 4 firework (which will be clearly labelled as such).
- for any person to use an 'adult' firework between the hours of 11pm and 7am, except for on permitted fireworks nights. For New Year's Eve, the cutoff is 1am

We are not here to spoil the fun, and want to enjoy this with you all, however this period brings increased demand on all emergency services, and we ask for your cooperation in keeping our communities safe. Lets have a memorable end to the year for the right reasons, and not the wrong reasons. Have fun, stay safe and respect your community.



We are still experiencing a large number of people riding e-scooters in public.

Did you know that it is **illegal** to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public? 

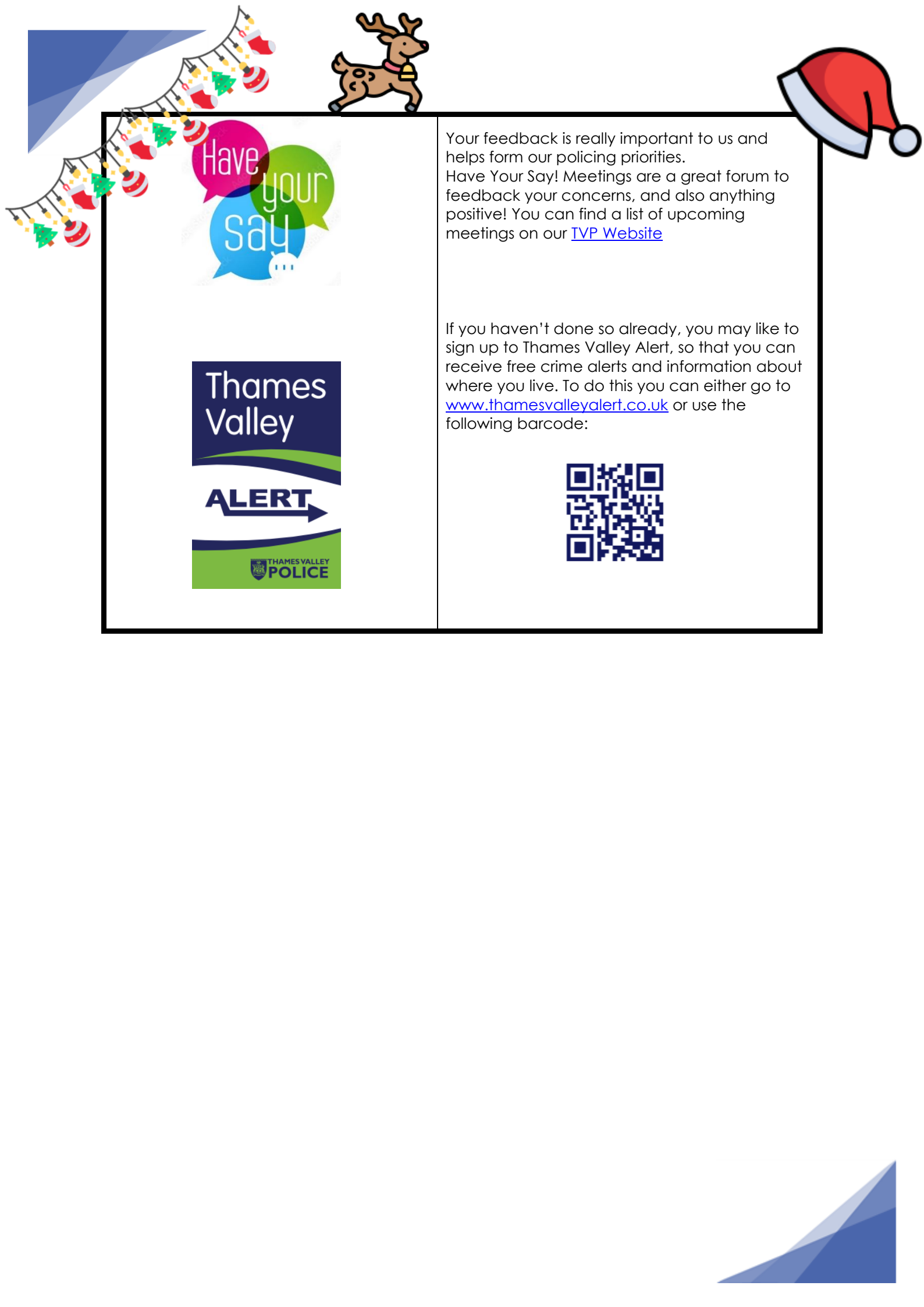
That's because e-scooters are classified as motor vehicles by law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one. However, it is not currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

The statistics for e-scooter accidents in the UK reveal a pattern of increasing casualties, particularly during the summer months. In 2023, there were 1,387 recorded casualties among e-scooter riders and pedestrians, including six fatalities.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on a road, pavement or in a public space. If you do, then you risk having your e-scooter seized and destroyed, face a large fine and even points on your driving licence! Should you not currently hold a license, these points can be added in the future once you obtain your license.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you are over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can rent these and use them on public roads and cycle paths (Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B).



Your feedback is really important to us and helps form our policing priorities. Have Your Say! Meetings are a great forum to feedback your concerns, and also anything positive! You can find a list of upcoming meetings on our [TVP Website](#)

If you haven't done so already, you may like to sign up to Thames Valley Alert, so that you can receive free crime alerts and information about where you live. To do this you can either go to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk or use the following barcode:

