

POLICE NOTEBOOK

AS YOU ARE probably aware, the telephone exchange that covers our area has now become digital. This obviously brings many advantages, and added services to the telephone network. This latest technology also helps British Telecom and the police in the fight against malicious calls. Malicious calls can be indecent, menacing, or simply very annoying. They may also be criminal under section 43 of Telecommunication Act 1984. Whatever their nature, we are extremely concerned about the distress and inconvenience caused by these calls.

With a digital exchange it now gives us an efficient and accurate device to trace any offending caller. Some malicious callers may call you at random, but often the call is made by somebody that is known to the family. Most malicious callers gain pleasure from getting emotional response from the person they call. If at all possible try to keep calm, and remember **YOU ARE IN CONTROL**. Some malicious callers may want nothing better than to have a conversation. So put the handset calmly down beside the phone and ignore it for a few minutes before replacing it. Remember — malicious callers use the telephone to hide behind, because they would be too frightened to say the same things to you face-to-face.

If you receive a malicious or nuisance call and would like advice, you can either contact British Telecom on 0800 666 700, or myself, **REMEMBER** — don't suffer in silence.

CRIME BUSTERS REVIEW

The Home Secretary has recently informed the Chief Constables of police forces throughout England and Wales to restrict the number of cautions given to juvenile offenders. Although I agree with the idea of cautioning certain juvenile offenders, over the last three years the system has got out of hand. Some offenders have been cautioned three and four times; hardly a deterrent!

It has also been general knowledge with the school pupils that all juvenile offenders get a caution on their first offence, often giving the attitude to some offenders that they can commit crime until they get caught, and then all they get is a caution. The criminal justice system must protect the victim, and send signals to any would be offender that crime does not pay.

Locally, Shipton seems to be the Mecca for young people to meet, however this brings problems when some of them will insist on causing damage and theft. I know certain local residents who are frustrated with the law and have tried to take matters into their own hands — please consult us, and parents, please be aware of where your youngsters are.

Do have a very happy Christmas and a crime free New Year.

Pc 377 Salmon.

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