

## Police Briefing Saturday 5th May 2012 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

### Crime Trends

Sometime in the week leading up to 25th April, a lean to shed at a property in **Hardwick** was broken into and a strimmer stolen, the occupier was away at the time. Incident ref 572-s-2504

Sometime in the three weeks leading up to 26th April, two stone garden ornaments were taken from a front garden in **Madley**. One of the figures was a young boy wearing a floppy hat, and the other was a lady, both were about 2' tall. Incident ref 596-s-260412

The theft of a tractor attachment from a field in **Peterchurch** was reported yesterday (4th May) but it happened about three weeks ago. The attachment consisted of 3 power drive shafts, 2 wheel weights and a hitch off power arrow (?) I'm sure the farmers among you will know exactly what this is! Incident ref 263-s-040502

Between Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th April, a bright lime green KX 80 scrambler bike was stolen from a farm building in **Dorstone**. Incident ref 530-s-260412.

Overnight on Friday 27th/Saturday 28th April, three cars parked in Cottons Meadow, **Kingstone** had their tyres slashed. Incident ref 53-n-280412

A chainsaw and a set of spanners were stolen from an open barn at a farm in **Dorstone** between 5.30pm on Sunday 29th April and 5.30am the following morning. Incident ref 121-s-260412

Three sheds in **Holme Lacy** were broken into overnight on Monday 30th April/Tuesday 1st May, and a large number of items were stolen including a ride-on lawnmower, several other mowers, chainsaws, strimmers and a set of golf clubs. The offenders approached the properties across fields at the rear. There was also an attempt made to steal a Landrover.

Incident ref 149-s-010512, 29-n-0105012, and 65-s-010512.

Five tractors parked in a field at a farm in **Kingstone** had diesel stolen overnight on Tuesday 1st May/Wednesday 2nd May. All the tanks had been full, so the offenders got away with a large amount of fuel.

f you have to leave machinery out overnight, it may be worth your while to drain the tanks before you leave them to save someone else the trouble! Incident ref 51-n-0205012

A cast iron bath being used as a water container for livestock was stolen from a field in **Hoarwithy** sometime last week. The bath was smashed up in situ in order for the offenders to move it. An attempt was also made to enter some farm buildings nearby, but entry wasn't gained. Incident ref 484-s-030512

Overnight on Thursday 3rd/Friday 4th May, two Stihl chainsaws and a Husqvana chainsaw were stolen from an insecure steel container on a smallholding in **Blakemere**. Incident ref 496-s-040512

At 4am yesterday morning (Friday 4th May) an attempt was made to steal items from a barn at a residential property in **Wormelow**. The occupier was alerted by an alarm to his mobile phone, when he got outside he heard the would-be thieves running away. The security system inside the barn had been disabled, and a load of items from inside were piled up outside ready for collection.

Enquiries are ongoing, there may be CCTV images of a vehicle used. Incident ref 34-n-040512

There was another call to the same property at 10pm last night as the alarm was triggered again and signs of a possible entry to the same building were discovered, but no suspects were found unfortunately. Incident ref 237-n-040512

An attempt was made to steal a ride on mower from a farm in **Dorstone** in the early hours of yesterday morning (4th May). The farmer's wife was woken around 2am by the farm dogs barking, but thought nothing of it. The next morning, the doors to the detached garage were open and the mower was outside in the rear garden - the suspects had planned to push it across two fields to a gate onto the road where a vehicle was waiting - there is evidence that this vehicle had become stuck in the mud so not a good getaway plan! Incident ref 339-s-040512

### Suspicious vehicles

A farmer in **Longtown** reported a white Ford Transit van **VK02JW\*** calling at his property asking for scrap on Thursday 26th April around 11.30am. Incident ref 70-n-260412

At about 6pm on Sunday 29th April, two males were seen calling door to door in **Madley**, they were in a silver/grey Peugeot estate **KN05FE\***. The driver was described as an overweight white male about 5'10" wearing a baseball cap, the

passenger was described as also white, a bit shorter at 5'8" wearing a tracksuit top, no other description. Did they call at your door? [Incident ref 705-s-290412](#)

A white Ford Transit van **AV09NW\*** was seen snooping around near a garage premises in **Orcop Hill** last Thursday 3rd May around 1.30pm. A young male from the vehicle asked if there was any scrap going, but was sent on his way. The van then proceeded further up the track towards some stables, but when it was approached it made off at speed. There was also a female in the vehicle.

[Incident ref 81-n-030512](#)

### Madley Bus

We have been made aware of items including eggs, apples and potatoes being thrown at the bus as it leaves the village of Madley late in the evenings. This has been happening regularly over the past six weeks but we have only just been made aware of it. The bus company is taking it very seriously, and is considering removing the service altogether, which would be a great loss to those who rely on the bus. So, if you have any idea who is responsible for this, please let us know, or ring crimestoppers if you wish to remain anonymous on **0800 555 111**.

### From Ringmaster

#### Police Make Arrest In Fuel Theft Investigation

Police in Herefordshire have this morning confirmed a man has been arrested as part of their investigation into a series of 'bilking' offences that have been going on for over a decade.

The thefts - which are essentially making off with fuel without paying for it - have been committed at many different service stations in the south of the county and the stations targeted include those run by large national corporations and also smaller local businesses.

Speaking about this arrest, Inspector Neil Whitchurch, who is based in Hereford, said:

"I can confirm that a 56-year-old man was arrested during the course of the night in the Chepstow area and that he is now in custody in Newport, Gwent.

"The man has been arrested on suspicion of theft and officers from Herefordshire will be travelling down to Newport to speak to him later today.

"Searches are being carried out at the man's home address and it is likely these searches will carry on for much of the day.

"This arrest has come about as a result of information passed on by the public and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has come forward and offered us information to aid our investigation.

"I'd also like to thank the press for their support in publicising this case.

Meanwhile, police in Herefordshire have also confirmed that two other men - aged 45 and 49 - are also in custody this morning in connection with fuel theft offences locally.

These two men - who have no connection to the man arrested in Gwent - were arrested in the Leominster and Tenbury areas on suspicion of theft this morning as a result of information passed on by the public. They will now be questioned by officers in custody in Hereford later today.

Moving on to speak about fuel thefts generally, Inspector Whitchurch continued:

"We are pleased with these arrests but I would like to take this opportunity to ask anyone who has information about fuel thefts of any sort to still come forward with that information.

"We will act on any information that is passed onto us and therefore anyone who'd like to share anything with us is asked to call us on either 101, or 0300 333 3000.

"Alternatively, Crimestoppers can also be called anonymously on 0800 555 111 if you'd rather pass on information without getting directly involved yourself."

### Stop The Drop! Litter Campaign

Herefordshire Council's community protection team and Amey are urging residents to 'stop the drop!' as part of their latest litter campaign. The three month campaign which began in April will focus on litter thrown from vehicles, left in lay-bys or green areas.

In the last three months, Amey has collected more than 400 bags of litter from the county's roads, weighing the equivalent of two family cars. Litter thrown from vehicles is not only unsightly but also costs around £30,000 a year to remove.

They are also running a primary school poster competition along with enforcement days at local picnic and green areas.

Councillor Russell B Hamilton, cabinet support member for the environment, housing and planning said: "I'm appalled by the amount of litter that is strewn along our roadsides and across our countryside. Those who discard their waste in this manner have no regard for our countryside or the safety of those who have to clear up after them. Whether the offenders live in Herefordshire or not, makes no difference whatsoever,

every council tax payer is contributing towards the cost of clearing up.

"It also means that valuable resources are being diverted from other important areas that are under pressure. I am calling for people to work together as a community to make littering socially unacceptable, why should we all have to pay to clear up after these mindless individuals?"

Craig Sandman, team leader for Herefordshire Council's community protection team, added: "We're often told that litter is an issue for communities across the county, which is why we've launched the 'stop the drop!' campaign. We appreciate that the majority of people responsibly dispose of their litter, but we'd like to remind everybody that if it's your litter, please take it home with you and either recycle or place into an appropriate rubbish bin."

### SmartWater

Finally, apologies for the delay in the delivery of SmartWater kits to those that have ordered, I'm expecting a delivery of kits shortly, but I am on leave until 21st May, by which time they will have arrived and I will get them out to you.

Thanks for taking the time to read through all this!

Fiona p.p.

[Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams](#)

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