

Police Briefing Sunday 13th January 2013 **South Herefordshire & Golden Valley**

Longtown

A property under construction in the village was broken into sometime during the night of Monday 7th/Tuesday 8th January. A side door was forced open and a quantity of power tools, a generator and a disc cutter were stolen.

Incident ref 97-s-080113

A farmer keeping sheep up on the mountains has discovered 26 sheep missing since the beginning of September. They were all tagged.

Incident ref 340-s-080113

Madley

A works van parked in Pennyplock was damaged overnight on Friday 4th/Saturday 5th January. A portion of glass trim was removed from one side of the vehicle, but no entry was gained.

Incident ref 92-n-070113

Much Birch

A male was reported as calling door to door selling ariel photographs at 1.45pm on 5th January, we had a similar call from a resident of Little Dewchurch at 7.30pm on Friday 11th January.

Orcop

Between 4pm on Thursday 10th and 8.30am on Friday 11th January, three caravans on a farm site were broken into, and a TV was stolen from one of them.

Incident ref 120-s-090113

A 44 year old male from Orcop was arrested at 5pm on Wednesday 9th January for driving whilst unfit through alcohol. He was charged and bailed to court.

Pontrilas

Between 8pm on Tuesday 8th and 5am on Wednesday 9th January, about 80 gallons of diesel were stolen from a lorry parked in a yard adjacent to the A465. The tank of the lorry was drilled, leaving the owners with repair costs as well as the loss of fuel.

Incident ref 58-s-090113

Vowchurch

Three static caravans were broken into at the Poston Mill Park on Tuesday 8th January. An alarm on one of the caravans went off around 11.20 and police were called,

but the suspects had long gone. The doors had been forced open with a jemmy, and at least one TV has been taken. The owners of the caravans have not yet been to see what is missing.

Incident ref 668-s-080113

Wormbridge

Between 11.30 am and 1.05pm on Wednesday 9th January, a workshop in the garden of an isolated property was broken into. Several power tools were stolen including a Makita circular saw, an Erbu mitre saw and a Stihl strimmer.

Incident ref 571-s-090113

A 28 year old male from Wormbridge was arrested at 1am on Saturday 5th January for providing a positive breath test. He was charged and bailed to court.

Cold Mornings - Don't Give Car Thieves An Easy Ride

Although vehicle crime is low across West Mercia, every winter the force receives a number of reports from drivers who have had their cars stolen after leaving the engine running, while they wait in the warmth of their home for it to heat up and defrost the windscreen.

Some vehicle owners nip inside for just a few seconds to collect a bag or finish the last mouthful of their breakfast coffee - but that's all the time an opportunist thief needs. To 'freeze out' the thieves, West Mercia Police advises motorists to:

- Clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper
- Sit in vehicles while the heater de-mists the windscreen

Drivers who ignore this advice are taking big risks. Thieves will drive around residential areas looking for likely targets - when they spot a vehicle with its engine left running on a drive or outside a home, it's there for the taking.

One person will be dropped off, gets into the target vehicle and simply drives away.

Many of the vehicles are never recovered, and some - especially high value models such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi - may be shipped overseas.

It is also worth remembering if your car is stolen when keys have been left in it, you may find your insurance will not cover you. If your house keys are stolen along with your car, your home is then vulnerable too.

So, this winter, don't give criminals an easy ride by leaving your car running unattended.

Get Warm, Stay Warm - Herefordshire

The Department of Health, under the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund, has again awarded the Private Sector Housing Team at Herefordshire Council, in partnership with 14 voluntary and community groups, funding for a project called Get Warm Stay Warm, whose aim is to provide assistance to reduce the effects of cold weather on vulnerable Herefordshire residents this winter.

For more information, please see the attached leaflet.

Best wishes

Fiona

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