

Police Briefing Thursday 29th March 2012

South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

Crime Trends

Between 11.30pm on Tuesday 20th and 7am on Wednesday 21st March, a catalytic converter was stolen from a Peugeot 406 parked outside a property in **Holme Lacy**. Incident ref 329-s-210312

I have been told by a mechanic that Peugeot 406's from 1998 - 2004 are targeted as they have very high value metals in their cats - so if you have one, please take measures to keep it parked out of view if possible. Another favourite is the Citroen Berlingo.

On Tuesday 20th March, sometime between 9am and 4pm, a boys cycle was stolen from a field just outside **Peterchurch**. The bike, a navy BMX Hustle, had a puncture, so the lad left it hidden in a field, and on his return after school, it had been taken.

Incident number 493-s-200312 refers.

A quantity of heating oil was stolen from a tank at a domestic property in **Peterchurch** between Wednesday 21st and Saturday 24th March.

Incident ref 54-n-240312.

Between 7am and 1pm on Monday 26th March, a house in **Harewood End** was burgled and a quantity of cash was stolen. The thieves broke in through a UPVC door at the side of the property. Incident ref 413-s-260312.

Overnight on Monday 26th - Tuesday 27th March, several items of garden machinery were stolen from a property near **Holme Lacy**. Two Honda generators, a Honda mower and a Honda rotavator were taken from insecure outbuildings on the property.

Incident ref 71-s-270312.

Also overnight on 26th/27th March, a shed next to the shop in **Longtown** was broken into and a quantity of grocery stock was stolen, including several packs of dry dog food and a case of washing up liquid. Incident ref 61-s-270312.

Overnight last night 28th/29th March, a green Peugeot 306 estate was damaged whilst parked in **Elm Grove, Clehonger**. The damage appears to have been caused by a sharp implement, possibly a key, making three scratch marks on the boot. Incident ref 110-s-290312.

Farmers - take note

The below is an alert sent out to farmers in the north of the county from our colleagues at Bromyard.

Please be advised that today a farmer in Tedstone Wafre has reported 48 Ewes stolen from his field. The ewes (all in lamb) are believed to have been stolen on Sunday night.

Thieves have entered the field and driven to the furthest point, where they have then loaded the sheep onto a vehicle and driven off. Due to the isolated location, nothing was seen or heard.

The ewes, which are all worth approx £170 each (just over £8K in total) were due to lamb in the next couple of days.

Please be extra vigilant around your livestock, Keep all gates locked, especially to fields that lead onto roads. Count your stock once a day if your able (I appreciate that this is not always practical, especially during lambing season).

Report any suspicious vehicles that visit your property on **101**.

Suspicious vehicles

Keep an eye out for a silver Mazda pick-up **X46*MAB** which was seen yesterday, Wednesday 28th March in the **Tretire** area, near St Owens Cross. It was seen driving around the yard, it then stopped and a male asked if some items in the yard were scrap. He was told it wasn't for sale, and then he asked if they had any spare fuel as they were running low! The request was denied, and they left. There were two males, believed to be father and son, the older male was described as in his 50's with greasy dark hair and a thin build, the son had a cap on and appeared to be in his 20's. The occupants are suspected to be involved in rural thefts.

At 11am yesterday, 28th March, a yellow Ford transit pick-up with a black back **NG*3JSZ** called at a farm in **Longtown**, asking for scrap, with three males on board.

From Ringmaster - Home security reminder

Ahead of the Easter holidays when many people go away with their family for a break, Temporary Detective Chief Inspector (T/DCI) Martyn Barnes, from the Police Command Team in Herefordshire, has reminded residents of the county of the importance of not leaving their homes vulnerable to burglars when they go out.

Although police regularly issue warnings to local people about the need to keep windows and doors shut - and ideally locked - when they leave their homes, many burglaries still appear to have happened simply because people have left their homes insecure.

Speaking about his continued concerns, T/DCI Barnes explained: "Although burglaries do remain rare in Herefordshire, many of the burglaries that do occur are committed by thieves who enter the house through an unlocked door or an open window.

"This means the reality is that most burglaries are carried out by opportunistic thieves, rather than 'professional' criminals, who are looking for the easiest way of getting into a house without being seen or disturbed. Opportunist thieves will not want to take unnecessary risks to carry out a burglary and therefore there are simple things that everyone can do to make life more difficult for them.

"For example, don't leave open or unlocked doors or accessible windows in unoccupied rooms even if you are only outside for a very short time. If you are in the garden and leave the front door open: it would only take a matter of seconds for an opportunist thief to walk in and steal items from your home. Remember to lock up properly before you go to bed and only leave windows open in the rooms where people are sleeping."

If you're going away - whether overnight or on a longer holiday - you should also ask yourself, does your home look lived in? Take the following simple steps to make sure your property is less vulnerable to burglars and you can enjoy your time away with peace of mind:

Let a neighbour or friend know that you're going away.

Arrange for them to check on your house - collect mail, open / close curtains.

Use timer switches/sensors to turn lights on in the evenings while you are out

Invest in external lighting

Mark your belongings with your postcode and house number.

If you have an alarm, set it when you leave the house.

T/DCI Barnes continued:

"I would ask each and every person in the county to spend a little time considering how they can make their home more secure.

"It will only take a few minutes to think this through but could make an enormous difference in terms of reducing your chances of becoming a victim of an opportunist thief."

For more information about home and garden security, visit the force website

<http://www.westmercia.police.uk/>

Appeal from Paul Leopold of the West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch Forum - can you help?

The West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch Forum seeks to act as a collective voice for Neighbourhood Watch in West Mercia.

On its committee there are representatives of most of the different parts of Shropshire, Telford and Worcestershire that comprise the Force area but

nobody from Herefordshire.

This is an omission that I would dearly like to put right. Whilst it is recognised that there are no Council Districts as exist in Worcestershire for example is there a Herefordshire NW Association or are there any smaller (geographical) NW

Associations?

If there are we would be delighted if representatives could join us on the West Mercia Forum thereby making the Forum genuinely Force wide. In the absence of any knowledge of an individual in Herefordshire to speak to I make this plea to all Neighbourhood Watch members in the County in the hope that someone can help.

I can be contacted on pleopold@toucansurf.com or 01886 821688.

Finally - more Farewells and a Welcome

Sadly, on 1st April we are saying farewell to PC Chris Lea and PS Dave Boote who are both leaving Peterchurch.

PC Lea will be working on the response team at Ross so will still be covering this area, as well as Ross on Wye and Ledbury, and Sergeant Boote will be returning to the response team at Hereford.

PC Wendy Powell will be the Local Police Officer covering

both the Golden Valley and Hereford Rural South areas from 1st April. Sergeant Nicky Cleeton is our new supervisor here until the end of May, she will also be responsible for the Local Policing Teams at Ross on Wye.

A

restructure of Local Policing in Herefordshire is being carried out over the next few weeks and the outcome will be revealed towards the end of May- watch this space!

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