

## Police Briefing Tuesday 17th July 2012 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

### Crime Trends

Overnight on Friday 29th/Saturday 30th June, a brick shed at a farm in **Madley** was entered and a quantity of tools, including socket sets, screwdrivers, and two Stihl chainsaws were stolen. Incident ref 287-s-020712

Between 30th June and 3rd July, three pedal cycles were stolen from an outbuilding on a farm in **Pontrilas**, there were two ladies bikes and a gents bike, no makes known. Incident ref 230-s-040712

A catalytic converter was stolen from a Ford Ranger parked on a private drive in **Clehonger** between 10.30pm on Sunday 1st July and 5am the following day. Incident ref 660-s-020712 Another Ford Ranger, this time on a driveway in **Kingstone**, also had a cat taken during the same period, (Incident ref 61-n-020712) and a Citroen Xsara estate, also in **Kingstone**, was targeted at the same time and had its cat stolen also. Incident ref 34-n-020712

A new house being built in **Craswall** was broken into overnight on 1st/2nd July and a quantity of lead and some building materials were stolen. Incident ref 133-s-030712

During the day on Friday 6th July, a shed at a property in **Michaelchurch Escley** was entered and a large quantity of items were taken, including a welder, whacker plate, chainsaw, generator, shearing machine and numerous tools, drill bits etc. Incident ref 601-s-060712

A shed in the garden of a property in **Kilpeck** was broken into between 4pm on Thursday 5th and 9am on Monday 9th July, and a strimmer and power tools were stolen. At the same time the rear patio doors of the house were forced open but no entry was gained to the house, maybe the suspects were disturbed. Incident ref 88-n-090712

At around 3am on Saturday 7th July, a householder in **Garway** disturbed two males attempting to steal the catalytic converter from his vehicle. The men left the scene in great haste, leaving behind a torch and wire cutters, which have been taken for forensic examination. Incident ref 133-s-070712

A secure barn at a farm in **Much Birch** was entered sometime overnight on Friday 6th/Saturday 7th July and a SatNav was stolen from a vehicle parked inside. An asbestos panel had been removed from the side of the building allowing access, and once inside, a roller door had been forced open to enable the offenders to escape. Incident ref 46-n-090712

On Thursday 12th July, a carved stone stoop was stolen from the porch of St David's Church, Much Dewchurch. The hollowed out carved stone head, believed to be Saxon, was probably used to carry holy water at one time. Incident ref 83-n-170712

Overnight on Thursday 12th/Friday 13th July, a 7' x 4' galvanised steel trailer was stolen from the garden of a property in **Kingstone**. The trailer, which had been chained to a telegraph pole, had been made for the victim, and had steel mudguards, fold out ramps and tailgate, and a stainless steel mesh finish. It was displaying the registration number **121AJH** at the time of the theft.

Incident ref 76-n-130712

A Ford Transit minibus belonging to **Kingstone High School** was damaged in the school car park between 4pm on Saturday 14th and 8.30am on Saturday 15th July. A wheelie bin had been used to dent the side of the vehicle, and was also climbed on and the side windows of the vehicle were smashed. Rubbish was strewn around, and several other bins around the school had been turned over and rubbish emptied. Please get in touch if you have any information. Incident ref 38-n-150712.

A green Landrover Discovery was broken into between 3.30pm and 4.15pm on Sunday 15th July whilst the owners were walking in **Aconbury**. Two handbags were stolen from the front of the vehicle, containing cash, credit cards and an ipod among other items. Incident ref 505-s-150712

A number of units at a property in **Clifford** were broken into between 11pm yesterday (16th July) and 9am today. The units are all rented out, there are four victims of this theft. All sheds had been locked, but the padlocks were forced off. Numerous items were stolen, including two compressors, a mobile welder, many power tools and car paint spraying equipment. Incident ref 128-s-170712

### Suspicious Incidents

A maroon Mitsubishi Shogun **R74\*PKS** called at a farm in **Wormbridge** in the afternoon of Tuesday 3rd July, asking for scrap. There were two males in the vehicle, one in his 50's and one in his twenties. Incident ref 142-n-030712

This message came to us from one of our colleagues at South Wye - 'A bike was stolen from our patch, It is a Cube Acid in black and white valued around £800. I have attached a photo. Frame number us WOW75857. We have had someone contact us via our twitter page stating that they have seen a similar bike being ridden in Allensmore lane, in to **Allensmore** village towards the church last night, by a male with fair hair.'

It may just have been the rightful owner of a similar bike, but if you have any information, please ring us on 101 quoting incident number 91-s-120712



In the last briefing on 1st July, an incident involving two males and a strange looking dog trespassing on land in **Little Birch** was reported. The males were shooting an air rifle. We now know who these individuals are, and where they live, and will be monitoring the situation. Please report any incidents of persons firing air weapons where they should not be, and also note that when carrying an air weapon in a public place it must be covered, and the person must be over 17.

### Direct Response

There have been several calls to police from across the county in the last week reporting calls from a company called Direct Response, offering security alarms. The company is a legitimate one, but it would appear some of their salesmen sail a little close to the wind in their sales pitch, intimating that they are working with the police, or that the police support their operations. The truth is, they are registered with West Mercia Police, as are any other legitimate alarm companies, but that is as far as the connection goes - we are NOT working with this company. If you are unhappy with a call from this company, please contact one of their customer liaison managers, Colin READ on 07825 614769 or Richard Mayhew on 07584 576431. For further information, see their website.

### From Ringmaster

#### Burglar Caught After Pursuit Jailed For Six And A Half Years

A man who burgled businesses and homes across Worcestershire, Herefordshire and

the West Midlands has been sent to prison for six and a half years.

Roy David Wallace, aged 44 of Lingard Close, Nechells, Birmingham, appeared before Worcester Crown Court yesterday (Wednesday, 11 July) for sentencing after previously admitting eight charges of burglary, an attempted burglary, theft of a car in Redditch and dangerous driving during a police pursuit which followed one of the burglaries in Kidderminster.

He received sentences totalling six years for the burglaries, attempted burglary and theft charges, with a further consecutive six months for dangerous driving.

The court heard that some of the burglaries took place at commercial premises in Redditch and Aston, Birmingham, while others involved homes in Worcester, Cofton Hackett, Grafton in Hereford and Kidderminster. All the offences took place between March and November last year (2011).

The first of these was at Hydraforce Hydraulics Ltd in St Stephens Street, Aston, in the March, when he broke in and took a Ford van.

During September Wallace burgled three commercial premises in Redditch. At Muller Ltd in Bartleet Road he stole brass and copper components. Laptops and other property were stolen from TDI Systems at the IMEX Centre and at Jon George Ltd on the Washford Industrial Estate. The following month (October) he attempted to burgle a home in Weavers Hill, Hunt End, Redditch.

Wallace stole jewellery, cash, electrical goods and car keys after burgling homes in Cofton Church Lane, Cofton Hackett and Grafton, Hereford, during October. Then in November he took a watch and jewellery after breaking into a house in Cornmeadow Lane, Worcester. Three days later, on 7 November, he and another man stole jewellery, electrical and household goods from a house in Cardinal Drive, Spennells, Kidderminster, but were disturbed by a woman returning home who took down part of the registration of their getaway car as they fled.

Police spotted the car on the A449 at Ombersley and after a 30-minute pursuit to Redditch it was finally stopped on the A441 Alvechurch Highway.

Detective Sergeant Marc Sanders of West Mercia Police said that during the pursuit Wallace drove at well over the speed limit on busy roads before specially trained officers were able to safely bring the vehicle to a halt.

The other man involved in the Kidderminster burglary, who cannot be named for legal reasons, received a 10-month sentence for that and other offences.

Det Sgt Sanders welcomed the lengthy prison sentence and commented afterwards: "Wallace is a prolific criminal and we hope members of the public will be reassured that

he has been locked up for some considerable time.

"Let this be a warning to others contemplating breaking into people's businesses and their homes. The police will not hesitate to prosecute offenders and clearly the courts will come down hard on them.

"Burglary, especially the breaking into of homes, remains a top priority for West Mercia Police."

Det Sgt Sanders urged people to be security-conscious to help protect their homes and businesses. Householders were urged to keep front and back doors locked and to shut downstairs windows at night. Leaving a light on when going out during hours of darkness also acted as a deterrent.

"It is also important that any suspicious activity is reported to the police immediately. If you think a property is being broken into call 999 and if you see anything which raises your suspicions, then again contact the police on the 101 non-emergency number."

He added: "The public can play a major role in combating crime by assisting the police. Do call us when you see anything unusual or suspicious so we can check it out. Working with the police in this way will prevent many crimes and help us trace burglars and other criminals."

Issued: Thursday, 12 July 2012

### Police Uncover Subterranean Cannabis Factory

A subterranean cannabis factory has been found and five people arrested as part of an operation run by Gloucestershire Constabulary, supported by West Mercia Police and Gwent Police, to tackle drugs offences.

On Friday, July 13, the three Police services were working together to carry out a number of coordinated warrants in each of the three areas.

During the operation officers carrying out a warrant in a remote area near Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire uncovered a subterranean cannabis factory, containing more than 200 plants.

The street value of the drugs found is thought to be approximately £100,000.

As part of the operation four men were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to produce cannabis, a class B drug.

Those arrested were; a 32-year-old man from Herefordshire, a 58-year-old man from Gwent, a 35-year-old man from Gloucester and a 22-year-old man from Gloucester.

All four have been bailed to return to the police station in September pending further inquiries.

Speaking after the operation Detective Chief Inspector Marc Flannery from Gloucestershire Constabulary said: "Our actions on Friday should act as a warning to those involved in the cultivation of cannabis that no location is safe from discovery. We will continue to work closely with our colleagues in West Mercia and Gwent to combat organised crime.

Issued: Tuesday, 17 July 2012

### Funding for Community Groups

Please find below a summary of the grant funding that is now available through the VITAL Herefordshire LEADER programme.

#### What is the funding for?

Grants of between £2000 and £5000 are available; the funding is available for community projects in rural Herefordshire that will help to achieve the following objectives:

- Enable local communities to develop and implement actions to **improve the quality of life** of those living and working in rural Herefordshire.
- Enable local communities to develop and **access the services they need** in their area.
- Support and **improve local democratic structures** to meet the needs of local communities
- **Training** local people to **meet identified skill gaps** and encourage enterprise
- **Enhance and maintain the distinctiveness of the countryside**, including cultural, historic and natural environment

#### Who can apply?

The project needs to be **community-led** and come from community groups, voluntary organisations or social enterprises with a written constitution and bank account. Parish Councils and Local Authorities can also apply. Private individuals or businesses cannot apply.

#### How do I know if my project is eligible?

Each project must:-

- Take place in and benefit people in Herefordshire. The VITAL Herefordshire LEADER area covers the County of Herefordshire, **excluding Hereford City** (wards of Aylestone, Belmont, Central, St Martins and Hinton, St Nicholas, Three Elms and Tupsley).
- Demonstrate good value for money
- Come from and involve the community, e.g. action from parish planning process
- Be new - it must not duplicate existing services
- Not be for statutory activities or promote political or religious activities

### **Target areas for funding:**

Basic Services for the economy and rural population

- Support for **local food projects** and healthy living initiatives e.g.. Community allotment/garden, support for local food market.
- Encouraging village markets to complement existing provision as a method of supporting local delivery and services e.g.. Developing schools farmers markets; **village food markets**.
- Support for **ICT for community benefit** e.g.. Courses to encourage older people to use a range of basic computer software.
- Support for enhancement of **community services** e.g.. Improvements to community shops.
- Support for **community renewable energy** projects e.g.. Photo voltaic panels, wind turbine.

### **Village renewal and development**

- Support for community buildings and community spaces e.g.. Small-scale capital projects to support the sustainability of **community buildings**.
- Activities that support **social enterprise** opportunities e.g.. Development of a community orchard.

### **Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage**

- Support for actions that develop awareness of local environmental and other assets e.g.. Local **tourism initiatives** based around promotion/interpretation of local heritage sites.
- Support healthy living activities e.g.. Guided walks.

### **Training and information for the economically active**

- Projects that support activities that keep local businesses local e.g.. **Training in business** related/technical skills.
- Support **rural skills development** e.g.. Coppicing, hedgelaying, woodland management, thatching.

### **How much LEADER funding can I apply for?**

The scheme can offer up to 70% of the total eligible project costs up to a maximum of £5,000 LEADER funding. It is expected that successful projects will contain a level of public, voluntary and private match funding; this may be in cash or in-kind. The minimum LEADER grant available is £2,000.

### **Project completion date**

All projects need to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. If we receive more submissions than funding available the target areas for funding outlined above will be used to prioritise applications.

### **How do I apply?**

Please contact Dawn Turner at Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane, PO Box 4, Herefordshire, HR4 0XH. Tel. 01432 383023, email [dyturner@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dyturner@herefordshire.gov.uk), to discuss your project idea and request an application pack.

**Please note that the deadline for applications - 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

For grants up to £2,000, please contact the Delegated Grants Team at Herefordshire Council via email [delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk) or tel. 01432 260753. They administer various small community grants to help the communities of Herefordshire.

Kind regards,

**Hannah McSherry**

**Project Development Officer**

Phone: 01432 383061

Email: [hmcsherry@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hmcsherry@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Herefordshire Council

PO Box 4

Plough Lane

Hereford

HR4 0XH

Finally, apologies for the length of this briefing, it covers over two weeks worth of incidents which is why there appears to be more crimes than usual.

Best wishes

*Fiona*

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams

PS 3082 Nicky Cleeton [nicola.cleeton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicola.cleeton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

PC 2176 Wendy Powell 07811 131525

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232

CSO 6366 James Cooke 07779 141223

CSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223

E-mail - [goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**Non emergency number 101**