

Police Briefing Tuesday 24th April 2012 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

Crime Trends

An isolated unoccupied cottage in **Kilpeck** was entered between 12th and 19th April and four metal baths that were being stored there were taken. The property is in poor repair with no water or electricity connected, and hasn't been occupied for twenty years.

Incident ref 146-n-190412

Between Saturday 14th and Tuesday 17th April, a stone cat garden ornament was stolen from a front garden in **Much Dewchurch**.

Incident ref 196-s-170412

Between 6pm on Sunday 15th April and 6pm the following day, an attempt was made to enter a Peugeot 206 parked in a driveway in **Lower Maes Coed**, the drivers side door lock was damaged, but no entry gained.

Incident ref 112-n-160412

A quantity of scrap metal including an old hand-turned corn mill was stolen from an isolated yard near **Dorstone** between 16th and 17th April, the second such theft in recent weeks.

Incident ref 250-s-170412

The front window of a bungalow in **Much Dewchurch** was smashed with an unknown object between 1.30pm and 4.15pm on Tuesday 17th April.

Incident ref 494-s-170412

Between 3pm on Wednesday 18th April and 10.00am on Friday 20th April, six large antique cast iron columns were stolen from the rear yard of a smallholding in **Holme Lacy**. The offenders cut the hasp and padlock from a large pair of gates that are not used and took the items to a waiting vehicle in a lane that runs behind the property towards Bogmarsh.

Incident ref 167-s-200412

Two mowers and a strimmer were stolen from a locked container in the churchyard of St Peters Church in **Peterchurch** between 6pm on Wednesday 18th April and 8.30am on Thursday 19th April. The strimmer was a Husqvana, one of the mowers was a Countax K14 ride-on mower, the other was a Wheelhorse JD Vert, which had been marked with SmartWater. The items were all new, and had been purchased with money donated to the church.

Incident ref 57-n-190412

A house in **Madley** was burgled between 8.30am and 1.15pm on Saturday 21st April. The offenders entered a rear door which was unlocked, put the dog in another room, and

stole money from a handbag in the kitchen, and also a laptop that was in the kitchen. The occupant was upstairs in bed at the time. A reminder to keep your doors locked even when in the house!

Incident ref 357-s-210412

A house in **Ewyas Harold** was burgled overnight last night (23/24th April). The offenders tried to gain entry at the rear of the property but were unable to force open the UPVC windows, they did considerable damage in the attempt. In the end they forced open a side stable type door which wasn't UPVC. A search of the entire house was made, it appears that jewellery and cash may have been taken, but the occupier is away at the moment.

Incident ref 59-s-240412

Suspicious vehicles

A white transit van with a registration similar to **AF06AFN** called at a farm in **Callow** at 12.20pm on Monday 23rd April, the driver was asking if there was any grazing available. He was thought to be acting suspiciously, it is quite an unusual request, so the farmer reported it

Crime Prevention Tips - From the West Mercia Police Website

Garden, Shed And Allotment Security

Power tools, mowers, garden tools, mountain bikes and golf clubs are just some examples of expensive equipment left in sheds that are not strong or secure enough to protect them from thieves. To make matters worse, these stolen items could then be used by the intruder to break into your house.

Around 1,500 shed burglaries take place every year within West Mercia, which highlights the importance of storing valuable items securely. Effective garden security covers everything from boundary fences and gates to the valuables stored inside your shed.

As part of our Safe & Secure campaign we've pulled together the following hints and tips to keep your garden - and therefore your home - secure.

Top Tips for a Safer Garden, Shed Or Allotment

Gates, fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in
Grow prickly plants close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes

Don't leave expensive equipment like garden tools, mowers, mountain bikes and power tools in the shed

If you have nowhere else to store valuable equipment, take measures to secure your shed

Don't leave ladders and tools lying around in your garden - these could be used to break into your home

Mark your garden tools and equipment with a property marking solution such as SmartWater

If you would like any of the 'Stop' leaflets or garden security leaflets above, please get in touch.

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