

Police Briefing Wednesday 23rd January 2013

South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

Abbeydore

Three box trailers that were in woodland were broken into sometime in the last month, nothing was taken but damage was caused by the culprits forcing the doors open.

Incident ref 26-n-160113

Clehonger

At around lunchtime on Thursday 17th January, a blue and yellow LDV Tipper **X47*CBT** was seen in Innesfield. A female passenger described as being in her 20's with long dark hair, wearing a blue and yellow fleece was knocking at all the doors. The male driver was older and wearing a blue top. The vehicle may be part of an organisation offering tarmac services, so best avoided!

Incident 51-n-170113

Dinedor

A blue Ford transit panel van **AF11*RK** was in the village at 12 noon today (Wednesday 23rd January), the two male occupants with Irish accents were offering brand new chainsaws. Do not be tempted to buy such items as they will not have been safety tested, and will almost definitely be fakes and will fall apart within a few weeks! You have been warned!

Incident ref 200-s-230113

Hoarwithy

Just after midnight on Saturday 19th January, a window was smashed at The New Harp Inn by a female in her 30's. Her identity has been established and the matter has been dealt with by way of Community Resolution.

Incident ref 19-s-190113

Kentchurch

At around 3pm on Tuesday 15th January, a male was seen 'poking around' in the garden of an elderly lady by a neighbour. When challenged, the male said he was looking to buy a caravan. There was no caravan in the vicinity, the male was described as in his 40's, about 5'9" with a dark, ruddy complexion and scruffily dressed. He had a bicycle with him and cycled off afterwards, which would indicate he may have been local - any ideas?

Incident ref 338-s-150113.

Kingstone

Between 9pm on Thursday 17th and 3.30am on Friday 18th January, a catalytic converter was stolen from a Peugeot 406 parked on a driveway in Whitehouse drive.
Incident ref 393-s-210113

A window was smashed at The Bullring Public House just after 11pm on Friday 18th January by a group of youths who had been denied entry. Their identity is known and enquiries are ongoing.
Incident ref 751-s-180113

Sometime during the afternoon of Saturday 19th January, an empty unit at the Gooses Foot Industrial Estate was broken into. Police were alerted by persons at a neighbouring unit who had heard the alarm ringing and seen a window smashed at the premises. The fire door was also opened, the suspects gained entry through the smashed window and left through the fire door. The unit was completely empty so a wasted effort!
Incident ref 295-s-190113

Much Birch

On Thursday 17th January, a farmer discovered that two tanks containing heating oil had been emptied some time since the second week in December.
Incident ref 23-n-100113

Highway Incidents

There have been numerous reports regarding large potholes in and around the local area. Please drive with caution and report where possible, to prevent any further incidents. Many vehicles have had wheels ruined (tyres sheared in two/ blow outs, wheels damaged, and flat spots). All have been created as a result of driving through them.

Please report via Hereford Council on **01432 260000**, so that Highways/Amey can deal with the problem as soon as possible.

Alarm Companies

Following the continuing trend for burglaries from outbuildings, we have recently received a number of enquiries regarding approved alarm companies which we referred to our Crime Risk Managers in Worcester. This is the advice that has come from them which is clear and should answer most of your queries:

"As far as alarm companies are concerned, we point people in the direction of the NSI and SSAIB which are alarm inspectorates. Membership for each company is voluntary, but to fit a police response alarm, ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) insist that a company belongs to one of these organisations.

Both web sites have search engines, put in your post code and it will bring up a list of companies in the area".

<http://www.nsi.org.uk>

<http://www.ssaib.org>

Police Cadet scheme is rolled out

This is a interesting opportunity for 16 year olds who have finished or about to finish secondary education and are perhaps undecided on what to do next. West Mercia Police Cadets is a force wide volunteer scheme operating in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire. The aim of the cadets is to support West Mercia's strategy of engagement with young people. The recruitment period takes place between January and March each year for prospective cadets wishing to start in September. All the details can be found on the www.westmercia.police website.

Motorists warned to take care in snow

With heavy snow forecast over the West Midlands region on Friday, the Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire and West Mercia is reminding motorists to take extra care on the roads over the next few days. The Met Office has issued an amber warning of snow in the region between 3am and 9pm on Friday (18th January) and the potential for severe travel disruption.

Driving in icy and snowy conditions can be challenging for drivers as vehicle handling changes and stopping times and distances increase. When roads are slippery, it can take up to ten times longer for your vehicle to come to a stop.

Anna Higgins, Communications Manager for the Safer Roads Partnership said "In extreme weather conditions, such as thick snow, motorists should avoid any non-essential travel. If you do need to travel, take extra care on the roads and ensure your vehicle is in good running order before you leave. Vehicle handling can change considerably and it takes much longer to slow down on icy and slippery roads. Reduce your speed, keep well back from the vehicle in front and allow plenty of time to slow down. Steering may become unresponsive and if this happens, ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually. Braking sharply on an icy or wet road will only make the situation worse and could cause the brakes to lock and the car to skid."

Also, please keep your headlights on whilst driving in these conditions.

"With the current forecast, there is the potential for some severe travel disruption and the public are advised to watch or listen to local news for updates and be prepared to alter their travel plans."

The partnership is also reminding drivers about the importance of carrying an emergency kit in their cars during the winter months in case of a breakdown or delay. This should include items such as an ice-scraper, torch, warm clothes and a blanket, a pair of boots, a first aid kit, battery jump leads, a shovel for snow, food and drink and

sunglasses to help see in low winter sun. Motorists are also advised to make sure their mobile phone is fully charged before heading off on a long journey.

Anna Higgins added: "It really is worth spending a couple of minutes to put a few extra items in the boot of your car that could be essential if you breakdown or experience a delay due to bad weather. You may not need to use them but you'll be glad you packed them if you do."

Best wishes

Fiona

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