

Marlborough Rural East Neighbourhood Police Bulletin



Covering: Aldbourne, Baydon, Ramsbury & Axford, Chilton Foliat and Froxfield.

Distribution: NHW co-ordinators, Parish Chair's & clerks, Village Magazines, Notice boards and websites.

Author: PC 1661 "Batch" BATCHELOR e-mail jeremy.batchelor@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

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General

Please use this Monthly bulletin as a parish police report and extract any relevant information you see fit to parish magazines and web sites. If you require advice on any specific area please ask.



Every year some 200 Wiltshire householders - often the elderly and infirm - report that they have fallen victim to distraction burglars and bogus callers.

There have been 2 such cases on our area over the last month

Distraction burglary is described as any crime where a falsehood, trick or distraction is used to gain, or try to gain, access to the premises to commit burglary.

Distraction burglaries are not spontaneous crimes committed by opportunists for a few pounds, they are well organised groups that travel hundreds of miles to target Wiltshire and the surrounding counties.

Distraction burglars tend to use a number of ruses in order to gain entry into people's homes, often posing as utility workers, or council officials claiming to be from the 'Water Board' is a particular favourite. It is often assumed by the public that distraction burglars are men - this is not always the case, these groups often include women and children as well.

In addition to distraction burglars, doorstep crime also encompasses rogue traders. This is where bogus gardeners or builders carry out inferior work or repairs on a property and then charge extortionate amounts of money for below standard work.

Safety advice which you can use to help prevent falling victim to this type of crime:

Follow the SOS - STAY OUT STRANGER advice when there is someone at your door:

- Always keep your door shut and locked.
- If someone comes to your door and you aren't expecting a caller it is important that you check who it is by using a spy-hole or look through a window. DO NOT open the door to anyone you don't know or are not expecting.
- Official visitors will always arrange an appointment with you beforehand - If no appointment has been made DO NOT open the door.

- DO NOT keep large amounts of cash at home - it is much safer in a bank or building society.
- Always keep purses and wallets hidden away from sight
- Never keep pin numbers with credit or debit cards
- Never agree to have work carried out by someone who is just passing, or believe such people in respect of any work needing to be done at all. If you think work might need to be done get quotes from three companies and ask friends and neighbours for recommendations.
- If you see anything suspicious or think a bogus caller may have called at your door, you must report it to the police immediately by calling 999.

Series of non Dwelling Burglaries in West BERKSHIRE

Recently Thames Valley Police have reported a spate of non dwelling burglaries from farms, garages and remote premises. I would ask you all to encourage your communities to report any suspicious vehicles or persons especially after dark. If at all possible **vehicle registration numbers should be recorded** as this is often the single most important piece of information that leads to apprehension of offenders.



Reduce the chance of Christmas crime



With the Christmas holiday season almost upon us, now is a good time to remind people to take steps to make sure your Christmas isn't spoiled by criminals.

Criminals take the opportunities afforded them by the extra shopping we do, the hustle and bustle of town centre's as we rush around, and the value of the goods we buy as presents and store in our homes until the big day. We might also be more trusting and generous at Christmas when requests for charity are made, giving the unscrupulous a chance to collect for their own causes.

So what should you do??

- Having bought all those wonderful presents, don't make it easy for someone to steal from your home. Keep them out of sight until last thing on Christmas Eve and if you 'hide' or store larger items such as bicycles in the shed or outbuildings, make sure they are very secure
- If you go out for the evening make it look like someone is at home by turning on lights and the radio. Don't leave curtains open so people can see your decorations as potential thieves can see in. Be extra careful about locking doors and windows. As a fire precaution, don't leave Christmas lights on in the house whilst you are out.

If you go away for the holiday period - use an automatic timer for lights and ask a trusted neighbour to watch your home. Don't forget to cancel newspapers and milk if you have them delivered and either redirect your mail through the Post Office or have your neighbour take mail into the house - unopened Christmas cards and mail are a sure sign that a house is empty

Silent Nuisance Telephone Calls

There are numerous companies using something called "POWERDIALLERS". If you keep getting silent calls before being hung up on, then you could be suffering from these POWERDIALLER nuisance calls.

These companies dial hundreds of numbers and when you answer, if you're lucky, you get a salesperson trying to sell you something. If you're unlucky you get cut off - or should that be the other way round!

If you dial 1471 and get the reply "WE DO NOT HAVE THE CALLERS NUMBER", then that last call was made from outside the UK and was probably a sales company. It is NOT the same as 'number withheld' which is for UK based calls only.

Get them stopped by registering with Silent Call Guard on 0870 444 3969. It is endorsed by BT and it's FREE.

It takes 48 hours to sort itself out, but will stop a large percentage of sales calls that originate in the UK getting through to you - Don't ask me how it works, it just does !



PC BATCHELOR

1661

Marlborough Parade Room, ext. 739-818.

Phone: WILTS POL on 0845 408 7000 Internal ext 739-818

E-mail jeremy.batchelor@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

In an EMERGENCY dial 999, all NON-EMERGENCY calls 0845 408 7000

(Your call will be recorded)

www.wiltshire.police.uk