

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.

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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.

Drop in Crime

Home Office Annual crime figures were released for April 2008 to March 2009. Wiltshire Police recorded the fourth lowest crime volume in England.

Overall crime dropped by seven per cent and the number of offences that have been detected increased. In real terms this means that three thousand fewer crimes were committed in Wiltshire and Swindon.

THE BOBBY VAN TRUST

www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust is a registered charity and is entirely responsible for raising all the funds needed to operate the Bobby project.



The Bobby Van project consists of three vans which are, in effect, mobile workshops. The Bobby operators are skilled carpenters/lockfitters and are trained Crime Reduction Officers. They have also been trained by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue to carry out fire risk assessments with the aim of improving fire safety awareness. They wear uniforms which resemble those worn by police officers.

Initially set up to help older victims of burglary, we are now able to include anyone aged 60+, vulnerable and disadvantaged people and victims of domestic violence (**only if referred through DVU on Form 991**).

The aims are:

- to reduce the fear of crime
- to reduce the incidence of burglary
- to reduce the incidence of repeat victimisation among elderly, vulnerable and disadvantaged people

The two co-ordinators receive and prioritise referrals and make appointments for the operators to visit. The operator then visits and assesses the needs of the client by means of a security survey and fire risk assessment, addresses any concerns the client may have, supplies and fits locks and fittings necessary to secure the property and advise the client on personal safety and property security. They will also provide information on other agencies that may be able to help the client.

As part of the service we provide for the community the Bobby Van Trust gives talks on personal and property security to clubs, groups and societies. These are arranged by contacting the Bobby Co-ordinator.

The services of the Bobby Van Trust are free of charge.

Here are some examples of the work that Bobby Van has done:

Victim of distraction burglary: An 81 year old woman was tricked by a distraction thief. Security in her home was upgraded by the Bobby Van which included fitting a voice memo alarm and extra time was spent with her to emphasise the importance of safety procedures when callers arrive at her door.

Victim of domestic violence: A lady had suffered domestic violence and threats to kill. She was referred to the Bobby Van by the Domestic Violence Unit, who then visited and changed locks and upgraded the general security of her home. They also issued her with a personal attack alarm.

Victims of attempted burglary: A front door was forced open whilst an elderly couple were watching television. After a referral from a police officer Bobby Van visited and window locks, door locks, a door viewer and door chain were fitted.

To make a referral:

- email:bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk
- Telephone – External: 01225 794652

Notable Local Crime/Incidents & Advice

20/08/2009 **Metal theft Ramsbury**

Unknown offenders have removed lead from around the windows at a premises

Cable and precious metal theft has become a growing concern in the UK. Incidents are occurring nationwide and Scrap thieves have resorted to ever more bizarre techniques to capitalise on the high prices. Gas pipes, copper or bronze statues, even church lightning conductors have been ripped out for the sake of the scrap value.

Wiltshire has recorded a significant increase in offences and opportunistic crimes. Thefts of lead, copper piping, catalytic converters, and alloy wheels have become such a popular item among thieves, because of the ease by which they are sold.

Wiltshire Police have launched Operation HERALD. Operation HERALD will be demonstrating a firm commitment to tackling metal theft in the County Division of Wiltshire, and working with scrap metal dealers to provide a solution to preventing and detecting Metal Thefts within Wiltshire.

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim of this crime consider the following security measures.

These are equally applicable to residential and business properties and building sites.

- Make theft more difficult by removing items such as ladders and waste bins which allow access to the roof.
- Store ladders and other easily moved items securely so they cannot be used to gain access to roofs or scaffolding.
- Keep locked all gates and doors which give access to the property.
- Make sure your property is as visible as possible so that anyone removing metal can be clearly seen. Consider cutting back trees and using security lighting.
- Let trusted neighbours know when the site will be empty and ask them to report to police any workmen or vans on site during these times as they may be removing property.
- Consider the installation of CCTV equipment and the use of property marking equipment such as UV pens or SmartWater.

26/08/2009 & 03/09/2009 **Theft of push bikes Ramsbury & Aldbourne**

Unknown offenders have removed bikes from insecure sheds and garages.

Non Dwelling Burglary Self Help

Burglary of garden sheds and theft of garden equipment is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country. Your garden furniture and tools are very saleable items so you must make it as difficult as possible for any would be thief to get to your property.

Gardens are often unattended, have easy access, are concealed from public view and have many escape routes -and these are the sort of places thieves operate.

Walls and Fences:

Your first line of defence against burglars are your perimeter walls and fences. To ensure walls and fences have the maximum effect, follow this advice:

Ensure that all perimeter fences and walls are in good condition, and cannot be easily pushed over.

If they are damaged, repair it as soon as possible, even if it is just a temporary measure.

Don't leave things next to them that could help people climb over., such as ladders or benches.

Put rubbery spikes across the top to increase the difficulty of climbing over. these are usually available from good hardware shops (they are also used to stop cats getting in your garden.

Fit sturdy, secure locks to gates and doors and ALWAYS USE THEM. Which is worse, spending a few extra seconds unlocking a side gate or a few days sorting out insurance claims and filing police reports

If you don't want a fence or wall, consider growing plants at the edge that will deter thieves.

Lights:

Gardens are often dark, and thieves can hide easily and steal what they want. Consider removing this factor by doing the following:

Fit exterior lights that have light sensors or an infra-red sensor that switches the light on for a short time when it detects something in its range - sensors can be bought separately to convert an existing outdoor light into a security one.

Illuminate dark areas of your garden where possible.

Keeping hedges, shrubs and large plants cut back - screens for thieves to work behind should be avoided.

Machinery:

Like any other machinery, garden machines such as lawn mowers and strimmers, are very attractive to thieves. Try to follow the same rules as for any other machinery like a bicycle or car:

Postcode all machinery.

Lock all machinery in a shed or storage box. Lock the item to the shed itself as well if possible.

Never leave equipment unattended, even for a minute - remember it only takes a second for an opportunist to steal.

Keep a note of all machinery including any serial numbers etc.

When using machinery such as lawnmowers and strimmers, you will find it hard to hear anything else. Sneak thieves will be able to hear you doing this and also when you STOP, giving them the ideal opportunity to steal from you. Make sure that your home and belongings are locked and secure while you are in the garden.

Rogue Traders have been operating in our area :

Rogue traders may knock on your door and pretend to be legitimate builders or gardeners. These callers will try to convince you into having work carried out that you do not need doing and may also charge you extortionate amounts of money for the work once it is done.

You should NEVER agree to have work carried out by someone who has passed your house and told you the work needs doing. If you have agreed for work to be carried out do not let them pressure you into paying for the work before it is complete and do not let them take you to the bank for you to take out money to pay them.

The only way to make sure that rogue traders do not try to swindle you is to make sure you do not open the door to them – remember – SOS – STAY OUT STRANGER!

If you need work doing at home, make sure that you get quotes from at least three companies and ask friends and neighbours to recommend a reputable company to you.

Wiltshire Rural Crime Team

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide the rural community with a single point of contact, advice and reassurance, together with specialist advice and guidance.
- To concentrate on the ongoing issues that have a significant impact on rural communities i.e. hare coursing, poaching and theft of plant / machinery.
- To deal with rural cross-border crimes and incidents in accordance with the recently developed Incident Management regime.
- To undertake proactive operations, either independently or in support of local NPTs, in order to prevent and detect rural crime. Legislation that restricts the ability of offenders to move freely will be promoted i.e. Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 which permits the seizure of vehicles.
- To work in partnership towards creating a single Wiltshire Farmwatch scheme, operating to agreed standards.

If you have any queries regards the Rural Crime Team then please contact any of the officers from the team.

PC 1103 TONY MILES (Wootton Bassett)

Telephone: 0845 4087000 x 730819

PC 962 MARK RANDLE (Amesbury)

Telephone: 0845 4087000 x 724515

PCSO 6017 JOHN BORDISS (Marlborough)

Telephone: 0845 4087000 x 739817

PS 693 ANDREA FAIRCLOTH (Supervisor)

Telephone: 0845 4087000 x 723421

Further Contact details:

There is also a **virtual voice mail** that has been set up for leaving messages and this can be accessed from anywhere in the force 08454087000 x 723548.

The e-mail ruralcrimeteam@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk: is accessed daily by the Rural Crime Team.

PC BATCHELOR

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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