

BURY RURAL Watch News



ELECTRONIC VERSION

MARCH 2006

NORTH ZONE NOTES

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CAR THEFTS

YET ANOTHER

NEW SCAM

Your car is parked in the open, perhaps you've been shopping or filled up with petrol – you might even be at home. It could be anywhere.

You get in and start up. Being a good driver you check your side and rear mirrors. To your annoyance you see a sheet of paper has lodged itself across the back window.

You get out to go and remove the bit of paper. Almost certainly you leave the keys in the ignition and possibly the engine is running. If you're female you probably leave your handbag in the car too.

The next thing you know - your car is being driven off without you. But are your house keys in it as well ?

This scam is currently being practised in London. No doubt it will move out to the counties in the fullness of time.

REMEMBER THIS WARNING

AND

DON'T GET CAUGHT

In the seven months that I've been with Bury Rural I have really come to appreciate the support we receive from all our communities and Neighbourhood Watch (NW) in particular. This helps us enormously to do our job.

As you know we have three Community Police Officers (CPOs) in the North Zone assigned to various parishes. They each have between seven and twelve parishes in their "patch". One of these CPOs is currently away but her parishes are being covered temporarily by the other two CPOs and one CPO from the South Zone. In addition there are Response Officers who, as their name implies are there to respond immediately to any incident requiring police attention. Obviously you will see more of your CPO in the villages but if you ask for assistance it could well be either a response officer or a CPO who arrives. CPOs and Response Officers are spread but thinly over the area so we all rely a great deal on your help and cooperation.

In response to complaints from the public and some parish councils about speeding through villages, your CPOs have been out with their "speed cameras" enforcing the speed limits.

We have seen an increase in the use of the Police Direct messaging system which has now taken over from COMNET. Police Direct messages can be received through landline telephone connections, text messages or via e-mail. If you want to keep abreast of what is happening and help us reduce crime I urge you sign up. To register for messages via e-mail go to www.suffolk.police.uk and follow the link to Police Direct; for the text service, text POLICE followed by a space and then your Post Code to 88588 and for telephone messages call 01284 774068.

I look forward to meeting all the NW Coordinators at the NW Conference in Great Whelnetham Community Centre on Thursday March the 23rd.

Clare Mowson

Zone Sergeant, North Zone

NW CONFERENCE INVITATIONS

There has unfortunately been a delay in printing the invitations. These are now being distributed. Would Coordinators please let us have the names and parishes of those wishing to attend before 14 March either by e-mail to (Peter.Johnson@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) by fax to 01359 232374 or by telephone to 01284 774222.

**IF WHAT YOU KNOW MIGHT SOLVE A
CRIME . . THEN REPORT IT NOW !**

**CALL The Police on 01284 774100,
or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111**

THE NORTH ZONE

Zone Sgt - PS 248 Clare Mowson E-mail Clare.Mowson@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Rural North West – PC 39 Lindsey Whittaker

E-mail Lindsey.Whittaker@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

My March police surgery will be on Sunday the 19th from 11am until noon in the Ixworth Library. On Wednesday the 15th I'm hoping to join up with the mobile library in Bardwell from 2.45pm for an hour. If there is any thing you would like to talk about please come and see me there.

Lindsey Whittaker

Crime reported on the Beat this month

Barnham. Three offenders entered a construction site on Thetford Road at 11.09pm on 15 Feb, forced open a metal door and shutters and broke a window but did not gain entry.

Honington.

Over the weekend 25 / 26 Feb the paint of a car parked on Woodside View was scratched.

Ixworth. A car stereo was stolen from Saddlers Yard on 27 Jan.

Overnight 2/3 Feb a disk cutter was stolen from an unlocked container on Peddars Close.

Overnight 5/6 Feb a forced entry was made into a dwelling to the High Street. The intruder was probably disturbed as nothing was taken.

Ixworth.

Overnight 14/15 Feb two power saws and a generator were stolen from a locked outbuilding on Heath Road after a break-in.

Overnight 20/21 Feb the rear wind screen of a vehicle parked on Crown Lane was smashed.

A CD player was stolen, after a side window was smashed, between 8.30am and 12.30pm on 23 Feb from a locked car that was parked on Thetford Road

DO NOT LEAVE ATTRACTIVE ITEMS IN VEHICLES OVERNIGHT

Rural North – PC 161 Sheena Tate

E-mail Sheena.Tate@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

At 7.30pm on Wed 15 Mar there'll be a meeting for all local residents in the Stanton Community Centre to discuss future provisions for youths in the village. There will be speakers from Suffolk CC and Suffolk Clubs for Young People. Please come to have your say and make suggestions in support of our efforts to engage the younger members of our communities.

Sheena Tate

Crimes reported on the Beat this month

Barningham.

Overnight 6/7 Feb a window at the rear of a building on Church Road was broken.

Stanton.

Between 6 & 7pm 2 Feb two glass panes in the Barningham Road telephone kiosk were broken.

An alarm was activated when the door bolt of an outhouse on Hepworth Road was cropped between 6.30 and 7.50pm on 6 Feb.

Stanton. Between 7 and 8 am 19 Feb windows of a building on Grove Lane were broken.

Between 12.30 & 1.30 pm on 19 Feb a mini CD player and drill bits were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in Shepherds Grove.

A low load trailer was hitched to a white Volvo tractor and driven away from the Industrial Estate at 8.45pm 27 Feb.

Thelnetham. Tyres of a vehicle on Hopton Road were slashed over night 2/3 Feb.

Rural North East – Parishes normally covered by PC Chapman have been reallocated to other CPOs. PC Lindsey Whittaker covers Great & Little Livermere, RAF Honington and Troston; PC Sheena Tate, Pakenham; and PC Graham Howe, Ampton, Great Barton and Timworth.

My next surgery will be at the Pakenham PO at 11.30am on 9 Mar.

Sheena Tate

I will be re-launching the Ampton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme this month.

Graham Howe

Crimes reported on the Beat this month

Great Barton. A bag of shingle was taken from a driveway in The Park overnight 10/11 Feb.

Great Livermere. The locks of two cars, parked on Mere View and in

School Gardens, were damaged during the evening of 25 Feb.

Timworth.

A wheelbarrow was stolen from a field off The Green between 6 and 8 Feb.

LOCK UP YOUR CARS AND REMOVE ATTRACTIVE ITEMS

We've been singing this song ever since this publication started and yet, regularly every month, we carry reports of items being stolen from unlocked cars, or cars being broken into because attractive items were on show. Worse, we often have reports of cars being stolen that had the keys left in the ignition. These crime trends indicate that there are opportunist thieves who simply go along trying the doors of cars and who are also quite happy to smash a window if they see, or think they see, something attractive.

These opportunist thieves are now highly mobile and frequently travel long distances to their target areas, often chosen because they are cosy country areas where everyone knows and trusts each other and never lock their cars. Don't be lulled into a false of cosy security – lock it up.

TO CONTACT YOUR CPO CALL 01284 774100 AND ASK FOR THE OFFICER'S AIRWAVE VOICEMAIL

THE SOUTH ZONE

Zone Sgt – PS 1352 Neil Ireland E-mail Neil.Ireland@suffolk.pnn.police.iuk

Rural South East – CPO PC 704 Ruth Horton

E-mail Ruth.Horton@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

I am always on the lookout for ways to meet more people in the villages that I cover. If you are a member of a group that holds regular meetings and would like a visit from your Community Police Officer, do please contact me as I would be more than happy to attend.

Please note that I won't be on duty between 23 and 29 Mar.

Ruth Horton

Crimes reported on the Beat this month
Bradfield St George. Between 7.30

& 8pm on 7 Feb the cash box from a telephone kiosk at Hollybush Corner was removed and cash stolen.

Overnight 22/23 Feb wall on Felsham Road was damaged.

Great Whelnetham. At 6.55pm on 5 Feb the cash box in the telephone kiosk on Stanningfield Road was forced open.

Horringer. Tyres of a parked van were slashed overnight 7/8 Feb.

Rougham. A laptop and digital camera in the back of an unattended van were stolen between 1.15 & 1.45pm on 6 Feb.

Electrical cable was stolen from a container that was broken open at 11.44pm on 27 Feb.

Sicklesmere. Vegetables were taken from a front garden on the A134 at 2pm on 8 Feb.

Rural South – CPO PC 992 Sarah King

E-mail Sarah.king@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

There have been a number of crimes where unlocked vehicles, parked on driveways, have been entered at night and items have been stolen. Please lock it up every time you leave a vehicle and remove any valuable items, especially tools from work vans unless they are equipped with effective alarms. *Sarah King*

Crimes reported on the Beat this month

Barrow. Overnight 4/5 Feb a locked vehicle in a car park on The Street was stolen.

Barrow.

There was damage to a front door on Lion Green on 12 Feb.

Overnight 13/14 Feb the recently installed CCTV cameras and related equipment was stolen from the Village Hall.

A light sensor at premises on Church Road was damaged during the weekend 17/19 Feb.

A chainsaw was stolen after a break in to outbuildings on Bury Road overnight 21/22 Feb.

Barrow.

At 3pm on 28 Feb a person talked their way into a property in Poplar Close by claiming to be a Water Board official. Fortunately nothing is known to have been taken before leaving at 3.30pm

Great Saxham.

Overnight 16/17 Feb a disk changer and CDs were taken from a car and a disk cutter from a van that were parked on a driveway in Chevington Road.

Rural South West – CPO PC 819 Graham Howe

E-mail Graham.Howe@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

During this month I will be looking to launch new Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Fornham St Martin and in Flempton.

I look forward to meeting you all at the NW Conference in Great Whelnetham on 23 Feb.

Graham Howe

Crimes reported on the Beat this month

Fornham All Saints. An external tap in a property on Dairy Drive was damaged between 23 Jan & 10 Feb

Ingham. Overnight 14/15 Feb the CCTV camera at premises on the A134 was damaged and a quantity of scrap metal was stolen.

Lackford. Overnight 12/13 Feb a motorcycle was stolen from a locked shed off Bury Road. Suspects two white males in their 20s. One medium build with short gingerish hair in dark clothes, the other was taller and bigger and wearing a dark jacket.

Lackford. Overnight 13/14 Feb the padlock of a shed on Bury Road was removed but nothing was taken.

Overnight 16/17 Feb a quantity of wood rails were removed from a track near the lakes.

Troston. A porch window of a house on Honington Road was smashed at 10.15pm on 25 Feb.

West Stow. A handbag was stolen after a break in to a van in a lay-by on Icklingham Road at lunch time 26 Feb

DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

There has been a recent increase in Distraction Burglaries across the county. As usual they use a number of ruses to gain entry, frequently posing as officials of utility companies. It is most unlikely that such companies would send more than one person to do a job that one can do, so be extra careful if more than one appears on your doorstep seeking entry.

On principle you should never let any stranger into your home that you have not identified as genuine. Ask for identification and check with the company that the person is a legitimate representative. As a second person will often seek to gain entry elsewhere, whilst the occupier is being kept busy at the front door, always make sure other entrances are securely shut before answering the front door.

REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE – IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT

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PETER'S PANEL
THE EASTER HOLIDAYS LOOM

If you have school age children or are thinking of going away for Easter, now is the time to start on some serious planning about how to keep the young suitably occupied and how to make your house secure. And if you don't have school age children or you are not going away then think of ways you can help those who do or who will be going away.

It is not too early to begin organizing activities for the young to keep them out of trouble over Easter. Most effectively and economically these are best organised as group activities combining several families preferably with a responsible adult in charge of each day. Given the propensity for the young not to surface in the early hours, a late morning, or even an early afternoon start will probably result in fewer absentees. If the absence of young will result in a house being left unoccupied then don't forget security.

Which brings me on to the arrangements you need to make if you are going away. You should aim to make your home look as if you are there. This means cancelling normal deliveries of newspapers and milk and arranging for someone to clear your letter box. If possible get a trusted neighbour to come in and draw the curtains in the evening and undraw them in the morning. You really do need to invest in some time switches that will turn lights on and off as would normally happen if you were there. The sound of a radio or television will also do much to warn off opportunist burglars.

Should the weather turn warm then a shaggy lawn can be another indicator that the house is not occupied. A really kind neighbour might cut it for you – perhaps you could repay this kindness in the same way later in the year. You may also like to consider putting really valuable items into a bank for safe keeping and remember not to leave valuable items on show.

POLICE DIRECT DOES IT

At 13.02hrs on Tuesday the 14th of February Police Direct put out a message describing a prolific church burglar who was suspected of being involved in a series of recent burglaries in this county and in Norfolk. The description included a possible alias and the number and the type of the vehicle he was thought to have been using.

A member of the public received this information as a text message and happened to see the suspect car outside a church and the suspect person entering the church. By 14.10hrs, one hour and eight minutes after the alert was put out, it was announced on Police Direct that the suspect had been arrested.

This offender has since pleaded guilty to four specimen charges, one each in Suffolk, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Shropshire, and has asked for 76 other offences to be taken into consideration.

In her leading article in this issue, Sgt Clare Mowson urges those who have not already done so to register for Police Direct messages. If you are not registered please do so now – it costs you nothing.

This case shows how effective Police Direct can be. Equally this incident demonstrates the importance of passing and receiving fresh information, and doing it quickly. We are fortunate that Police Direct is being trialled in Western area which allows us to reap the benefits immediately, but to really make the most of it we have to set in place our personal and collective measures in NW schemes to receive use and distribute the information effectively. We also need to hone our own observation skills so that we not only note what is suspicious or out of place, but to then do something positive and pass on our suspicions as soon as possible. Our challenge is to exploit the potential of this system to the full.

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