

BURY RURAL Watch News



ELECTRONIC VERSION

APRIL 2006

BE AWARE

Commander

Inspector Geoff Nunn

Tel: 01284 774235

Email

Geoff.Nunn@Suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Ixworth Police Station,

The High Street,

Ixworth,

BURY ST EDMUNDS

IP31 2HN

Tel: 01284 774222

Fax: 01359 232374

Editor Watch News - Peter Johnson

Peter.Johnson@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Horringer Police Station.

College Close,

Horringer,

BURY ST EDMUNDS

IP29 5SL

Tel: 01284 774645

Fax: 01284 735721

ICE REMINDER

You may recall, that some time ago, we advised those of you who carry mobile phones to make an entry in your list of phone numbers under the heading of **ICE**. This stands for "In Case of Emergencies". The number you enter is that of whoever should be contacted in the unfortunate event that something befalls you.

The emergency services are aware of this practice and will automatically look for any such record on any mobile they may find. If you haven't already done so please record an **ICE** number in your mobile phone.

DATA LINK (MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE)

This scheme has already saved two lives in the county. You enter a list of medications you take and any allergy or illness you suffer from, such as diabetes, on a form which you insert in the special plastic pot. This you place in your fridge and stick special labels on the inside of your front door and on the outside of the fridge to alert Emergency Services. Contact your CWLO if you would like a bottle.

Lighter evenings and the warmer (?) weather is a nice change, but it does tend to bring out more of the criminal element after their nefarious pursuits.

Distraction burglary is high on the list of these crimes. A recent theft of dark blue British Gas meter reading jackets and last year's theft of Anglian Water jackets highlights the potential danger of bogus workers trying to inveigle their way into homes. They have many stratagems and ruses – the more urgent they make their need to get into your home sound, the more suspicious you should be. These people tend to prey more on the elderly or infirm; but don't be led into believing that it is only the elderly that will fall victim to their wiles. The first line of defence against these criminals is the front door which is best supplemented by a chain or bar; but remember, that whilst you are answering the front door someone may be sneaking in by the back, so make sure that is locked before you answer the front door. I would ask any relative or carer of a vulnerable person to discuss with them this type of crime and make sure that wherever possible a door chain or bar is fitted **and** used.

The Crime Reduction Officer, Hayley Bartram, now has briefing teams who will go out to venues and give a talk about Distraction Burglary to any group who would benefit. The coordinator, to whom you should apply to arrange a briefing, is Keith Chittock, who can be contacted through 01284 774100 or on e-mail at keith.chittock@suffolk.pnn.police.uk.

On a different tack - we have the Easter holidays coming up. If you are going away, don't forget the basic crime prevention measures mentioned in Peter's Panel last month. And if you are taking a caravan out for the first time since last year, do remember to check at least the tyres and wheels. The Easter holiday is notorious for broken down caravans to be found littering the verges of roads, having suffered blown out tyres, which have perished over the winter or simply deflated.

Finally on the subject of raves. This is where the public can do a lot to prevent these nuisances. If we get information that it is suspected that a rave is about to take place and the location we can probably stop it. So let us know as soon as your suspicions are aroused.

Neil Ireland

Zone Sergeant, South Zone

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 first day back on duty after a couple of refreshing weeks' leave will be 4 Apr. I plan to hold Police Surgeries in Ixworth Library at 11am on 8 and 29 Apr. I am sorry I had to cancel one recently because I was diverted onto an operational task. In April I'll be visiting the Ixworth and Banham schools, continuing on the theme of Road Safety.

Lindsey Whittaker

Crime reported on the Beat this month

Barnham. There was a break-in to a house on Euston Road during the morning of 6 Mar. Nothing taken.

Computers and screens were stolen from an office in premises off Station Road during the night of 10/11 Mar.

A damaged car left in a lay-by on the A134 was stolen between 22 and 30 Mar.

A garage door in St Martin's Lane was damaged between 27 & 30 Mar.

Coney Weston. Overnight 25/26 Mar burglars burgled a property on The Street after breaking in through a window and then unlocking a door from the inside. Electrical items were stolen.

Ixworth.

Windows of a house on New Road were smashed on 26 Mar.

Rural North – PC 161 Sheena Tate

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

Suffolk County Council education initiative will be holding an 8-week baby sitting course called "Babywise" in the Stanton Community Centre starting on 19 April. The course is an excellent opportunity for young persons to learn a skill that can bring them in some extra money. It covers subjects such as the law, family and

baby sitters' rights, accident prevention, First Aid, personal safety and good practice. The course will be held between 7pm and 9pm and will cost £1 per night.

For more details contact Ellie Green on 077 697 16632 or Tony Cooke on 01359 231004.

The Hopton NW AGM will be held on the 9th of May at 7.30pm in the Methodist Chapel. *Sheena Tate*

Crimes reported on the Beat this month

Stanton. A Honda motor cycle was taken from a shed on the industrial estate over the weekend 11/12 Mar. The mc has now been recovered and a suspect identified.

Between 10 & 10.30pm 18 Mar, the bonnet of a car, parked on The Street, was dented.

Between 6.30 & 6.35 pm 20 Mar a side window in the Community Centre was smashed.

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.

I will be holding a surgery at Pakenham Post Office at 11am on Thursday the 20th of April.

Sheena Tate

Crimes reported on the Beat this month

Ampton. Lights were taken from a car parked in Park Gates overnight 27/28 Mar.

Great Barton. A trailer was stolen from a hard standing in West Wood overnight 28 Feb / 1 Mar.

Little Livermere. A car, with the ignition key left in the ignition and parked at the rear of a house amongst Heath Cottages was stolen between 10 and 11pm on 29 Mar.

Troston. Electrical equipment and jewellery were stolen from a house on The Street during the morning of 13 Mar.

A steam cleaner with its hoses and lances was stolen from a secured out building on The Street overnight 28/29 Mar.

PURSE BELLS – THE “MET” FOLLOWS OUR EXAMPLE

For some time small bells have been made available, free, through your CPO or one of the CWLOs, to combat pickpockets and the theft of purses in particular. Recently a lady who had attached a bell to her purse only two days before went to London for the day. Whilst sitting in a café she heard a bell tinkle. Looking round she saw two men rushing out, to the sound of a tinkling bell. Although her cries of “Stop Thief” did not result in the capture of the thieves, café staff were able to record the getaway car's number.

The “Met” now wants to know where these bells can be purchased !

THE SOUTH ZONE

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

Rural South East – CPO PC 704 Ruth Horton

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

I attended a Neighbourhood Watch Meeting recently where we discussed the latest scams. People relayed stories of challenging genuine calls from their banks and other organisations for fear of being caught out. I was really pleased that the message is getting through and people aren't taking these calls at face value. Banks or Credit card companies will never ask you for your pin number.

If in doubt say you should only call back when you have verified

The authenticity of the caller AND checked the number you intend to ring.

Ruth Horton

Crimes reported on the Beat this month Bradfield St George. Between 6 & 14 Mar oil was taken from an insecure container in the rear garden of a house on Hollybush Corner.

Little Whelnetham. Overnight 28 Feb / 1 Mar locks on containers, in premises on the Sudbury Road, were broken and a nail gun stolen.

Rougham.

Overnight 27/28 Feb a digger and two excavators were stolen from a hard standing in premises off the A14.

Overnight 20/21 Mar a blue & white 7½ tonne lorry was stolen from a secure compound off Ipswich Road.

A large flint was thrown at the rear windscreen of car parked in a car park in Kingshall Street at 9.40pm on 29 Mar.

Rural South – CPO PC 992 Sarah King

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

An elderly person living in Hawstead was targeted by distraction burglars. Fortunately the offenders were scared off when a neighbour approached. Please be on the lookout for any suspicious persons calling on elderly or vulnerable neighbours or even just looking around houses where you know the occupants are away. *Sarah King*

Crimes reported on the Beat this month Chevington. A house on Church Road was entered, by forcing a lounge window, between 6.30pm & 7.15pm on 24 Mar. Jewellery and cash were stolen.

Between 22 & 26 Mar another house on Church Road was entered by forcing a side door. Jewellery and a DVD player were stolen.

Hawstead. An elderly person allowed three males posing as water board workers to enter a house at The Pound at 2pm on 28 Mar. They fled empty handed when a neighbour approached.

Westley. During the day of 13 Mar a house on Old Church Lane was entered after a window was broken.

Whepstead. Overnight 18/19 Mar an attempt was made to steal a trailer from a drive on the Chedburgh Road.

Rural South West – CPO PC 819 Graham Howe

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

With the arrival of Spring many people are likely to be taking to the road for picnics and walks in our local beauty spots such as picnic sites and forestry areas. There are several of these on my Beat.

Please remember to remove any attractive items from view when you leave your vehicle. This advice has already helped reduce the number of these sorts of thefts. *Graham Howe*

Crimes reported on the Beat this month Culford. A sports bag, in the boot of a vehicle parked in a lay-by on the B1106, was stolen during the afternoon on 12 Mar.

Ingham. Overnight 30/31 Mar a pressure washer was stolen from an outbuilding in premises on Dairy Lane.

Flempton. A window of a car, parked on The Green, was broken overnight 8/9 Mar.

West Stow. A handbag was stolen from a locked van, parked in a lay-by on the Icklingham Road, at lunchtime on 26 Mar.

Between 3 & 5pm 15 Mar a handbag was stolen from a locked vehicle, parked on the Icklingham Road, after one of the car windows was smashed.

DESCRIPTIONS

The three persons involved in the attempted Distraction Burglary at Hawstead are described as follows:

Two young males about 6ft tall in their early twenties and dressed in grey;

An older male aged about 45 and around 5ft 4ins tall with a balding head and wearing a white and grey striped sweater.

PETER'S PANEL

Do you suffer from unsolicited telephone calls and junk mail ? There are some ways of gaining a measure of relief from these menaces. Some of them don't have an immediate reaction but they do all take effect eventually. Here is a list of organizations to contact:

Personally Addressed Junk Mail

The Mailing Preference Service, Freepost 29 LON 20771, LONDON, W1E 0ZT.

Telephone: 0845 703 4599. Website: www.mpsonline.org.uk

Unaddressed Leaflets

Royal Mail Door to Door, Opt-Out, Room 130, Wheatstone House, Wheatstone Road, SWINDON, SN3 5JN. Telephone: 0845 790 5950. E-mail: output@royalmail.co.uk

Unsolicited Telephone Calls

The Telephone Preference Service, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, LONDON, W1W 8SS.

Telephone: 0845 070 0707. Website: www.tpsonline.org.uk

Even though it is illegal to make marketing calls to anyone registered with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) you may still receive calls from overseas or from those who just choose to flout the law. I did have an Indian lady call me after I had registered. Having wheedled out of her the name of the company on whose behalf she was calling, I told her that it was illegal to call me as I was registered with TPS, then the line went dead. I've not another call from her, but I don't know if her firm was UK based.

My conclusion is that it is well worth registering with these organizations as, not only will this probably save you further irritation, but it should also reduce the waste of paper and energy that goes into producing and distributing junk mail.

Spam and e-mail scams are a different matter. The former can only be dealt with by programming your computer to reject it. Outlook 2003 has a program that will do this. Last week's Computer Active had an article about a free download that alerts you to e-mail phishing attacks and spam.; details are available on www.computeractive.co.uk/2151945. This does not mean that I am recommending either program, but simply telling you what I know exists. If you receive what you consider to be an abusive e-mail or a scam you can make the mail provider aware by forwarding the offending e-mail to them. To do this simply insert the word "abuse" before the Internet Service Provider's name, usually found after the "@" sign, and send it off. Responsible providers will then do something about it, but not all providers, especially those not based in the UK, are as responsible as others.

MORE SCAMS AGAIN

It seems that there is no let up to number of schemes being devised to separate us from our money. Here are two more:

Currently this one is being practised in London main line stations and other places where crowds congregate. The victims are those who have "Bluetooth Jacking". Bluetooth jacking software is used to connect your handset, without your knowledge, to a premium number. It will then go on with the call until you next use the phone, reception is lost or the battery runs out ! The first you will know that it has happened is when your phone bill arrives. It is suggested that if you have Bluetooth on your phone you should either turn it off when not in use or set the discovery code to "Hidden".

You may get a card, from a company called PDS or Parcel Delivery Service, saying they have a parcel awaiting delivery instructions or were unable to deliver a parcel to you, and asking you to call 0906 661 1191. This is a scam said to originate in Belize. Do NOT call this number or you'll find you have been billed £15 as soon as you hear the recorded message and £1.50 a minute thereafter.

If you receive a card with either of these requests you should contact Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 239 6655 or contact ICTIS through <http://www.ictis.org.uk> or your local Trading Standards Office.

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CRIME . . THEN REPORT IT NOW !**

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