



AMESBURY RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BULLETIN

MAY 2013

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We cover the following villages:

Allington, Berwick St James, Boscombe, Cholderton, Deptford, The Gomeldons, Great Wishford, Idmiston, Hurdcott, Netton, Newton Toney, Orcheston, Porton, Salterton, Shrewton, Stapleford, Tilshead, The Langfords, The Woodford Valley, Winterbourne Dauntsey, Winterbourne Earls, Winterbourne Gunner, Winterbourne Stoke, Wylde and all the lovely green bits in between!

THE SUN WILL BRING THEM OUT YOU CAN BE SURE.

Right, the sun is out and at the time of writing I have already mowed the lawns twice.

However, this morning when I mounted my paddock tractor to lay waste to a vast swathe of nettles in one of the paddocks I was sorely disappointed. I threw back the tarpaulin which had been protecting Mr Deere all through the winter months and sat on the nice yellow seat, turned the key and..... nothing. Not a sausage.

Now I am not the best at servicing garden machinery, in fact I am useless, totally useless, so it was into the trailer with the tractor and away to the garden machinery engineer to get it sorted out and ready for the fantastic summer which we will undoubtedly get.

It got me thinking about garden machinery security. I have an orange petrol strimmer, a large red petrol mower and of course my yellow and green paddock tractor and without them I would be well and truly scuppered. The grass would grow without fear and the nettles would flourish and spread like wildfire. I would be in trouble.

So it is one thing to lose one of them because of a mechanical failure (due to gross neglect on my part I might add) but it is a completely different story to lose them to the greasy haired, intellectually challenged, work-shy, filthy fingered garden machinery thief.

Of course they are all insured but that's not the point, if they were stolen it would cause me a great deal of grief. So what am I doing about protecting them?

Firstly I have a list of all the makes, models and serial numbers of my machines in the house. There is nothing more frustrating for us here at the Police Station than recovering some obviously stolen machinery and being unable to identify it's rightful owner.

Secondly I have recently reviewed my security. The tractor is kept in a highly secret location only known to myself and Mrs. S. Sometimes even I can't find it which is very frustrating. The strimmer similarly is squirreled away where you wouldn't expect to find it. The lawn mower is barricaded in and it takes me ages to free it. This also involves making an enormous amount of noise in the process. So in short it is an effort to get to any of my machines. It also means it is an effort for a potential thief. Well worth the effort for my peace of mind.

The whole point is that I am making it difficult for the would-be pilferer to get his grubby mitts on my stuff. I would suggest that you put a bit of thought into it and do likewise. Go on - join me.

HANDBAGS AN INTERESTING INSIGHT.

I heard an interesting bit of information from a detective the other day regarding people who specialise in stealing handbags from parked cars. Having spoken to many of these handbag thieves he was able offer an insight into how they work.

They will sit and watch. If a woman gets out of a car to walk a dog and doesn't have a handbag with her they will assume that she has left it in the car. When she is out of view they will smash a window and look for it.

THERE ARE NO VALUABLES LEFT IN THIS CAR

We recently carried out an operation over a series of days whereby we went out in Police cars and spoke to people walking dogs at beauty spots. We gave people advice about not leaving anything of value in their cars. If we found an unattended car with valuables on display we waited around for the owner to return and advised them accordingly. We also offered everyone that we spoke to a notice to put in their windscreen which simply says:

STOP There are no valuables left in this car.

If you are a frequent dog walker and leave your car at beauty spots and would like one of these notices please drop us an e-mail or ring and we will pop one round.

REPORTED INCIDENTS IN APRIL 2013

BERWICK ST JAMES

3rd / 4th £700 worth of heating oil stolen from a domestic oil tank.

BOSCOMBE

9th / 10th Garage broken into fishing equipment stolen.

10th garage broken into, nothing stolen.

10th Outhouse broken into, chainsaw and hedge trimmer taken but found nearby.

IDMISTON

22nd / 24th 2.5m of copper earthing cable stolen from electricity sub station.

LOWER WOODFORD

2nd / 4th An oil tank and its contents were stolen from a business premises.

PORTON

1st A shipping container was broken in to about £3,000 worth of power tools stolen.

2nd Two 16yr old boys arrested for criminal damage at a children's home.

9th Shed was broken in to, two chainsaws and a hedge trimmer were stolen.

SHREWTON

24th 25th The Royal Oak pub was broken in to, nothing believed stolen.

STEEPLE LANGFORD

16th An unsuccessful attempt was made to break into a shed.

TILSHEAD

12th / 15th Two John Deere tractors stolen from dealership. Due to GPS on one of them they have subsequently been located in Poland and have been seized by Polish police.

WINTERBOURNE GUNNER

4th 2.5m of copper earth cable stolen from electricity sub-station.

WINTERBOURNE STOKE

10th Window smashed on parked car, money and driving gloves stolen.

20th Barn entered by someone using bolt croppers, Yamaha quad bike stolen.

WHATEVER WE DID - LET'S DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN!

The level of reported crime in the month of March was relatively very low. Only sixteen reports during the month. Well the level in April was even better! Are we getting smart and looking after our property better? Whatever it was let's do it again!

Contact us on '101' (non-emergency) or '999' (emergency)