



## AMESBURY RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BULLETIN

**APRIL 2013**

PC Mark Steele, PCSO Will Todd and PCSO Shona Maycock  
E-mail – [amesburynpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:amesburynpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

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!**

### **HEATING OIL THIEVES – LET'S TAKE THEM ON.**

Last week here at the Police station we held our Neighbourhood Tasking Group Meeting with representatives from the Langfords, Wylde, Berwick St James and Stapleford attending. We had a very interesting discussion about what is going on within the Rural Area and how we could make it an even better place to live.

It was agreed that over the next three months we (your Neighbourhood Policing Team – that is Me, Will and Shona) would make trying to prevent the theft of domestic heating oil our priority.

Now I can't promise that one of us will be sitting at the bottom of your garden watching your oil tank at all times nor can I promise to stop would be oil thieves from entering your villages but what we can do collectively is try and make things harder for these thieving blaggards (it's alright I've looked it up I can use that word).

Now due to the fact that we cover about 30 villages and most of them are not on mains gas I reckon that there are an awful lot of heating oil tanks out there. It would be impossible for us to visit everyone with an oil tank in a short space of time and give the owners some security advice. Therefore I am now going to give you some tips to make life difficult for the oil thieves. **PLEASE DON'T DO NOTHING – DO SOMETHING.**

Type **heating oil tank security** into a search engine (I used Google) and look at what comes up. The main suggested ways of protecting your oil tanks seem to be the following:

- **A purpose built metal cage in which to house your tank.** Now that may seem expensive but you can get one for less than a small tank full of fuel! Don't dismiss it!
- **An oil tank security lock.** An inexpensive option to make easy access to your tank difficult. We would always recommend **close shackle padlocks** as they are harder to break. Generally the more money you spend the better security you get.
- **An oil tank alarm.** There are several types on the market that can alert you if your oil level is dropping at a fast rate i.e. when a blaggard is syphoning it dry!
- **CCTV system.** CCTV systems are very cheap these days especially compared to the price of the contents of your fuel tank.
- **Frequent oil purchasing.** If you have a large oil tank don't fill it up. Oil can be supplied 500 litres at a time. It may be a pain reordering more frequently but the less you have the less you can lose.
- **Security lighting.** If possible can you stick up some security lighting to cover your oil tank. We think that most of the recent thefts are happening during the night. Lights might just put them off.
- **A Crocodile** – a bit drastic, but I would if I could – leave a crocodile in your garden overnight!

# **REPORTED INCIDENTS IN MARCH 2013**

## **DEPTFORD**

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> A quad bike was stolen from a very secure farm building.

## **HIGH POST**

22<sup>nd</sup> Set of waterproofs stolen from a drying room at the Golf Club.

## **NEWTON TONEY**

25<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> A 'gas banger' left out in a farmers field has been damaged. Why? Was it causing a problem? There are other ways of dealing with situations without resorting to crime.

## **NORMANTON DOWN**

26<sup>th</sup> A gate post was damaged by persons intent on coursing on farmland.

## **PORTON**

16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> A wing mirror was broken off a parked car by a mindless idiot.

16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Another (or maybe the same) mindless idiot damaged a wooden fence panel in Winterslow Road.

26<sup>th</sup> Jewellery was stolen from a box left in an insecure garage.

## **SHREWTON**

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Thieves broke into The Royal Oak, caused damage, nothing believed stolen.

16<sup>th</sup> A 42 year old female was arrested and charged with assault following a domestic related incident.

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> A clumsy and unsuccessful attempt was made to steal heating oil from a property in Upper Backway.

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> A building site at The Limes was entered and damage caused to property. Four men in their twenties were arrested. Enquiries are continuing.

18<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> A speed display sign was removed from the road causing damage.

## **TILSHEAD**

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> A car cover was stolen from the driveway of a property.

## **WEST GOMELDON**

3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> A vintage Wheelhorse ride on mower was stolen from a barn on a farm.

## **WINTERBOURNE GUNNER**

3<sup>rd</sup> Some kind fellow lobbed a brick onto the roof of a house causing damage to tiles.

## **WILSFORD**

21<sup>st</sup> Over 1000 litres of heating oil has been stolen from a domestic tank over a period of a month.

## **WHATEVER WE DID - LET'S DO IT AGAIN!**

The level of reported crime in the month of March was relatively very low. Only sixteen reports during the month. Has it been too cold for thieves? 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)**