



Recent rural crime series- catapult damage and non-dwelling burglaries

Regular readers of our daily crime updates will have noticed some repeated patterns in the types of crime being reported across our rural area. (If not already signed up, please register on our Community messaging system to receive our emailed updates – you can sign up at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk)

There have been over 70 reported incidents of criminal damage caused by catapults across our CPT since Nov/Dec 2016. A significant proportion of these have been committed across our rural Alderbury/ Wilton beats.

We have been working hard to target these offenders and we're happy to report that, following some great work from our Downton & Wilton PCSOs Matt SMITH and Nicola CLARK, a suspicious vehicle was spotted and located close to the Wilts/ Hants border in Nomansland late on Saturday 4th Feb.

Our PCSO's were able to call for support from Police officers on their Teams, the vehicle was searched and a quantity of ball bearings and catapult equipment were seized. The driver and three passengers were arrested on suspicion of going equipped with the intent to cause criminal damage. The four young men aged between 16-21 years all from the Salisbury area have been questioned and were subsequently released on police bail pending further enquiries.

Whilst this is a great result, we need to be mindful that there may be other groups committing this type of offence and we still need local residents to be vigilant and report any damage or information to us promptly.

We also continue to receive reports of burglary to sheds, outbuildings and garages. We have additional Police patrols in place with the support of Tri-force colleagues (dog units, armed response officers and Roads policing).

Please take the time to review the security of these outbuildings – take action now.

-Garages and sheds are often full of expensive tools to steal or use to break into the house. Do not leave a garage or garden shed unlocked, especially if it has a connecting door to the house.

-Fit strong padlocks and hardware to shed and garage doors.

-Make sure that the doors are solid enough not to be kicked in.

-Fit locks or bars to windows.

-Lock ladders inside your garage or shed.

-Consider lockable steel boxes or anchor posts fitted to the floor to secure tools and equipment.

-Garden tools and machinery should be permanently marked with your postcode.

-Install a battery or mains-powered shed alarm, available from all good DIY stores at a reasonable price.

-For extra security, replace the screws in external hinges of your shed or garage side-door with 'clutch-head' screws (also known as 'anti-tamper' or 'coffin' screws).

-Secure your wheelie bin to stop an intruder using it to climb on.

If you are unable to source a reasonably priced shed alarm from DIY stores, we do sell cheap basic shed alarms via our 'Bobby Van' scheme (currently £6-50).

You can contact the Bobby Van scheme on 01380 861155 or email: bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk

Report for Parish Councils – Downton Rural Beat -Feb 2017
(Britford, Coombe Bissett, Downton, Odstock and Redlynch)

Current local Policing Priorities

- **Recent Non-dwelling Burglary series**

Targeted patrols following recent series of overnight burglaries to sheds/ outbuildings and linked thefts of garden power tools. Recent offences -

21st/22nd Jan – Avon Meadow/ Downlands Close, Downton – garages forced and tools stolen

26th Jan – Princes Hill, Redlynch – garage forced, jerry cans and fuel stolen

1st Feb – Church Hill, Lover - garage forced, large quantity of chainsaws/ garden power tools stolen

Police Officers are carrying out stop checks and searches of any suspicious vehicles and/ or persons, patrols to focus on areas close to county boundary.

Local officers are continuing to liaise with colleagues from Hampshire Police to identify similar offences across the border and share intelligence.

- **Catapult related criminal damage to vehicles/ house windows**

Targeted patrols and stop checks/ searches of suspect vehicle – see update on recent arrests. – Recent offences –

21st-23rd Jan – series of vehicles and house windows damaged in Odstock, Homington and Coombe Bissett

2nd Feb – windows of 2 vehicles smashed in Barford Lane, Downton

Local Police Contacts

PCSO **Matt SMITH** – matthew.smith@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Pc **Matt HOLLAND** – Community Policing Co-ordinator

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