

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

RECENT INCIDENTS REPORTED:

Winforton Monday 19th December; between 11:00 and 16:00 Hrs. A short, white, male, driving a red van, called on a resident, asking for scrap. Later she discovered that a copper cylinder had been stolen from outside her property

Eardisley Saturday 31st December; between 01:00 and 07:00 Hrs. Persons unknown made an attempt to unlawfully access a property. They failed to get in, but caused damage to a door and 2 ground floor windows.

Lyonshall Between 16:00 Hrs on Tuesday 27th and 07:00 Hrs the next morning. Persons unknown broke a lock to access farm outbuildings. They removed the battery from a fork lift, used it to power a pump and steal 500 gallons of diesel from a bowser. They also took the fork-lift battery.

Police Issue Heating Oil Theft Advice

Oil tanks have become a target for thieves. Although Eardisley continues to be a safer area than most, Herefordshire and neighbouring counties generally, suffered numerous incidents where tanks were drained of oil.

Crime Risk Manager for the force PC Ian White has the following advice:

"Hide your oil tank so you're not a target for thieves in the first place: if they can't see it, then they won't know it's there. Plant shrubs or install fences to conceal your tank from view - especially if you live close to the road. If your property is more secluded, deter thieves from entering your property by installing lockable gates and maintaining any perimeter fencing.

Check your tank's oil levels on a regular basis. Be extra vigilant of tankers or large vehicles close to your property. (note any registration numbers of vehicles you think look suspicious and report them to the police.) Where possible, install security lighting that covers your tank and the immediate surrounding area. If your tank is openly accessible to all, consider moving it to an area or building where it is better protected."

Vehicles

1. Criminals targeted parked vehicles in Leominster area during January, stealing property from inside them; particularly Sat Nav's. Whenever you leave your vehicle unattended, remove your Sat Nav and any trace of its presence (such as the holder, suction marks etc); lock the doors and shut the windows and sunroof. Leave no valuables in your vehicle - not even in the glove-box or boot.

If you have been offered any kind of Sat Nav system from a dubious source please contact West Mercia Police on 101.

2. Most drivers let their car engines run for a few minutes before setting off on frosty mornings. Do not leave the vehicle unattended; it may not be there when you return.

Scams

1. A letter from Hong Kong advised a Herefordshire resident that someone abroad had a significant amount in cash that they want to send to the UK and gave a plausible reason. The writer wanted details of a bank account to make the transfer. It was a scam. Police are reminding everyone not to send money to unknown individuals to release further funds, however believable the story sounds.

2. Unknown cold telephone callers who ask you to accept a *reverse charge* call should be treated with extreme caution too. In a recent incident, Mr X received a call, from someone unknown, to say that a relative of Mr X was in trouble. Would Mr X accept a reverse charge call? It turned out to be a hoax; the call, at Mr X's expense, was to be on a costly premium line.

Avoid clogging emergency lines.

To report less urgent crime or disorder and for general police enquiries, call **101**. For example: if your car has been stolen, or your property damaged; if you suspect drug use or dealing or you want to give the police information about crime in your area, use the 101 number. **In an emergency, always call 999.**

MIKE DUTTON.

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