



Community Newsletter

Neighbourhood Report Test Valley Rural Issue 40 – Nov 04, 2008

Beat TA 8 - (The Sombornes & Bossington) PC 1194 Martin Benton

No incidents of note.

Beat TA 9 - (Broughton, Houghton, The Wallops, Palestine & Longstock) PC 2660 Simon Beecroft

28/10/08 – Streetway Road, Palestine – Criminal damage to vehicles.

31/10/08 – Houghton, Stockbridge – Tyres stolen from vehicle while parked on driveway.

Beat TA 10 - (Stockbridge, Leckford & Chilbolton) PC 2482 Tim Bonsor

29/10/08 – Stockbridge Down – Vehicle broken into, items taken.

Beat TA 11 – (Abbotts Ann, The Clatfords, Anna Valley, Wherwell, Longparish, Barton Stacey & Bullington) PC 1386 Jewell

03/11/08 – Barton Stacey – Damage to padlock to farm compound.

Beat TA 12 – (Grateley, Quarley, Amport, Thruxton, Monxton, Shipton Bellinger, Kimpton, Fyfield, The Pentons & Appleshaw) PC 1039 Bill Williams

28/10/08 – Fairways, Weyhill- Damage to garage door, no entry gained.

03/11/08 – Grateley Drove, Amport – Access gained to premises, tractor stolen.

Beat TA 13 – (Tangley, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Vernham Dean, Faccombe & Linkenholt) PC 2911 Roger Kitson

No incidents of note.



Free security advice is available from Melody Manning,
Crime Prevention Officer for Test Valley on 0845 045 45 45

For non emergencies dial 101, in an emergency dial 999.

To get in contact directly with the team call 0845 045 45 45
or visit www.hampshire.police.uk

**Speak to your local Safer Neighbourhoods
Team when you see them out and about.**





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This week's advice is produced by PC 1386 Richard Jewell

Crime Prevention Advice:

Data suggest that domestic burglaries and thefts of vehicles increase by around five per cent during November as people take less care of home and car security. Using firework noise as a cover, nearly a quarter of all domestic burglaries during November are committed by opportunists taking advantage of a door or window left unlocked while people are out enjoying fireworks displays or welcoming friends for fireworks in gardens. By taking some simple precautions that cost nothing, homes and possessions can be made much safer. (Source: Home Office)

ANY BURGLARY IS ONE TOO MANY

It's an unsettling time for many householders in the usually peaceful Test Valley villages which have suffered a series of burglaries in recent months. Those wondering 'how safe is it to live here?' might need reassuring that these sorts of crimes are still relatively few. But most of all it might be comforting to know that everyone in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is pulling together to try to catch the thieves and taking steps to prevent us being seen as an easy target.

The principle of Neighbourhood Watch relies on the concept of being a good neighbour. Being a part of the scheme means you are prepared to look out for your neighbours, and give them the opportunity to reciprocate while you are not at home. So, do make sure your neighbours know if you are out all day at work, or going away, even just overnight. How else will they know there could be a problem if they see a strange car in the driveway or hear people around? Our best defence is to take extra care of our property and possessions and not give thieves the opportunities to catch us out.

DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

Although we tend to think the hours of darkness are our most vulnerable time, burglaries are not uncommon in the middle of the day. It is so easy for thieves to pass themselves off as bona-fide tradesmen, particularly when they use the ubiquitous white van for transport.

Clearly we cannot be too careful at the moment so we need to make it difficult for potential criminals. Please talk to your neighbours, let them know if you are expecting callers while you are on holiday, away at work, or even out for the day. If a vehicle makes you suspicious record its registration, colour and type. Listen for unusual sounds and perhaps give the neighbour a ring to check if all is well. Surely, most of us would rather have, or make a call, that turns it to be a false alarm than miss responding when we were most needed.

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CALL THE POLICE

If you see someone behaving suspiciously, or believe an intruder may be at work ring 999 **IMMEDIATELY**. This gives the police the best possible chance to catch the offender. Please don't rely on your local co-ordinator to do it for you, they may be out and you may have wasted vital time. While hoax calls and deliberate mischief are obviously frowned upon, no one is going to get upset about calls made in good faith, even if they do turn out to be false alarms.

Also please remember that the police do not advise householders to take direct action against would-be criminals – you could get hurt, or risk becoming an offender yourself if your reactions are considered too harsh.

KEEP YOUR PROPERTY SAFE

Jewellery and easily portable items are often what a burglar is looking for. If you own expensive jewellery make sure it is kept in a safe place – perhaps not at home if it is really valuable. Take photographs of your precious items for insurance purposes and so that if the thieves are caught with their haul you can be re-united with your possessions.

BE A GOOD WITNESS

Never put yourself at risk, observe out of sight if you can, and try to remember or make a note of as many of the following facts as possible:

What do the people look like? Male/female, height, weight, age, skin colour, hair? Do they have tattoos, a beard, or wear glasses. What sort of clothing and colours?

What are they doing? This is easy if a crime is actually being committed but sometimes you can have a feeling that a person is in an odd place at an odd time. Are they carrying something?

Where are they going? Don't try to follow but, if you can do so safely, watch to see if they drive off in a car. What direction are they going in?

If a vehicle is involved do try to identify what make of car or van you saw and what model if you can. The colour and registration number will also be helpful.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

While recent events are naturally worrying they could be a timely reminder for us all to tighten up our home security. They may also be an opportunity for us to think about others, particularly those who live alone, and may be feeling especially vulnerable. The local police officers are willing to discuss any particular concerns you have about safety and home security.

Regards, PC 1386 Richard Jewell

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