



**Lancashire
Constabulary**
police and communities together

Rural Community Newsletter

Date: 11th November 2015

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the monthly newsletter concerning issues that affect you and the rural community.

The idea behind this monthly publication is to try and keep you better informed & up to speed regarding what is going on, in and around the rural areas of the Ribble Valley covered by this newsletter.

In addition to this publication, many of you also receive the text & e-mail alerts sent out via our In The Know (ITK) 'Watch' alert system. The 'Watch' schemes that are used in our area have been running for some time and the feedback shows that we are keeping you and other members of the rural communities better informed. This is something that we want to build and improve on. The idea and basis of the 'Watch' scheme is for there to be a 'two way' communication between you and us the cops. It's hoped that the monthly newsletters will also help achieve this, so please feel free to give us your feedback.

Please don't feel that the 'Watch' texts or e-mails you receive don't concern you because something has happened in another part of the Ribble Valley, or just over the border into adjoining force areas. One of the biggest issues we do have in our rural areas is that of criminals travelling in from other areas. Some of the offenders are travelling from North Yorkshire, Merseyside and the Manchester area.

Crime trends show that criminals do travel some distance to commit rural crime and these types of crimes can and do happen near you, so please try not to dismiss the information we send out to you.

Please remember also, we can only report and let you know what crimes have been committed, if a crime is reported to us. It is vitally important that we know when a crime is/has been committed in order to direct resources and also to get a more accurate idea of what crimes are being committed and where. You are not wasting our time. Remember, we cannot investigate a crime, unless you inform us that you are a victim of a crime.

CRIMES REPORTED IN OCTOBER

Newton, Slaidburn, Tosside, Dunsop Bridge, Whitewell & Cowark: Between 10.00pm & 10.30pm on 01/10/2015, a burglary took place at a commercial premises in **Bashall Eaves**. The offender having broken into the premises opened the roller-shutter door to the building and reversed a vehicle in but was disturbed before being able to steal property. The vehicle a green coloured estate type car made off from the scene.

Sometime between 29/10 & 03/11/2015, a burglary took place at an isolated building in the Gisburn Forest area of **Slaidburn**. A Honda EC200D portable generator was then stolen.

Chatburn, Downham & Twiston: Over-night of 20/10/2015, two outbuildings were broken into in the grounds of a property in the **Downham** area. Nothing was stolen, but damage was caused to a security light.

Gisburn, Bolton-By-Bowland, Rimington, Newsholme, Paythorne & Horton: Over-night of **05/10/2015**, a grey coloured Land Rover Defender 90 was stolen from the drive of a property in the **Middop** area. A second vehicle on the drive had damage caused to one of the tyres.

Sometime between 3.00am & 6.00am on **06/10/2015**, a red and black Honda Quad Bike was stolen from a farm yard in the **Bolton By Bowland** area. The offenders cut the chain which was securing the Quad Bike to fixture.

Over-night of **08/10/2015**, a burglary took place at a farm on the outskirts of **Gisburn**. The offenders used heat cutting equipment to force entry to an outbuilding, where once inside they removed a Honda Quad Bike and an Ifor Williams 8'x4' trailer, stealing the same.

Over-night of **08/10/15** and on the night of **12/10/2015**, a farm in an isolated area of **Paythorne** had diesel fuel stolen from farm vehicles.

Sometime between **14/10 & 29/10/2015**, a burglary took place in the **Paythorne** area. An LG TV was stolen.

Between **20/10 & 24/10/2015**, a garage in the grounds of a property in the **Newsholme** area was broken into and three vintage motor cycles were stolen. The motor cycles were two silver Norton Commando's and a red Triumph Trident T160.

Between **20/10 & 30/10/2015**, a further burglary took place in the **Paythorne** area. The offenders stole the following items; a Toshiba TV, kettle, toaster, Dolce Gusto coffee maker and a Dyson Ball hand held Hoover.

Between **21/10 & 24/10/2015**, a storage container stored on the outskirts of **Gisburn** was broken into. A quantity of power tools along with a socket set and trolley jack were stolen. An attempt was also made to break into another storage container at the same location, but this was unsuccessful.

Waddington, West Bradford, Grindleton & Sawley: Over-night of **04/10/2015**, a burglary took place at a house in the **Waddington** area. The ignition keys to the house owner's car VW Golf were taken from the house and the offender(s) then stole the VW Golf. The car was later found abandoned on the 05/10/2015 in the Manchester area.

If you have just a small amount of information connected with any of the crimes shown above please ring either the police on 101, or alternatively you can ring **Crimestoppers**, anonymously on **0800 555 111** and leave your information without the need to leave any of your details. If you do ring **Crimestoppers**, your phone number details are not recorded or displayed. It is an anonymous service. **Please be vigilant and report anything suspicious or unusual in your area.**

Some of the issues we will be looking at during the month of November are shown below

- A number of burglaries have taken place not just in our area, but other areas of the Ribble Valley. **Please make sure your security is up to the job and as good as possible. Make sure window frames, if wooden are in good order. Fix/repair any damaged locks etc. and think about installing security lighting.**
- A number of vehicles, including motor cycles, a Land Rover and Quad Bikes have been stolen. **It may be worth considering getting a 'tracker' device fitted to your vehicle in the event of it being stolen.**
- Plant machinery is being targeted at various building sites around the Ribble Valley. **Can we ask, if you see any vehicles or persons in suspicious or unusual circumstances We WANT AND NEED TO KNOW. Please ring 101 immediately with as much detail/information as possible. If you believe an offence is being committed, please ring 999 immediately.**

Community Information

Autumn/Winter Driving:- With the darker nights now upon us and the temperatures beginning to drop, this is a good time to remind you all about the road worthiness of your vehicle. Make sure all your vehicle lights are working correctly (replace lamps that are not working), also check the coolant/ant-freeze levels in the radiator

and the windscreen washer bottle, make sure they are topped up. Give yourself a little more time for your morning journey's in case you have to defrost the windscreen and NEVER leave your vehicle engine running and unattended to defrost/de-ice, you may find more than the ice has gone, your vehicle may also have gone. Remember it is an offence to 'quit' your vehicle, leaving the engine running & your insurance may not pay out if your vehicle is stolen in this way.

Poaching issues:- Around this time of year we regularly receive calls re persons being seen at night-time in the rural areas/fields with lamps or vehicles being seen in unusual or suspicious circumstances, which are greatly appreciated. Please go you're your 'gut' feeling and ring the police. If something does not look or feel right, ring it in to the police, we would rather check vehicles and occupants out and find that everything is in order, than not know about something until a crime is reported and someone says, "I saw a vehicle that didn't look right".

Making A Clean Sweep For Safety:- With autumn now here, this is a timely reminder (if you have a working chimney) to make sure that your chimney is ready for the winter months ahead. As part of the national Fire Kills campaign, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service is urging householders to ensure their chimney is safe and to have the chimney swept by a registered chimney sweep.

Open fires not only warm up a home, but also create a unique relaxing ambience. With the numbers of people using open fires growing, here are some useful tips for safer chimneys.

- Always use a fire-guard to protect against flying sparks & hot embers even when you're in the room
- Make sure embers are properly put out before you go to bed
- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained

As the winter months approach, people will start using open fires and their chimneys again. In order to keep you and your family safe from fire, you need to take necessary steps, such as ensuring the chimney is swept regularly, as well as having a working smoke alarm in their home.

Guidance on frequency is:

Smokeless coals - At least once a year

Wood - Up to four times a year

Bituminous coal - Twice a year

Oil - Once a year

Gas - Once a year

Latest statistics show that there are approximately 7,000 chimney fires a year in England, but most chimney fires are preventable. All chimneys and flue-ways should be cleaned and checked before lighting the fire to ensure they're free from debris and in full working order before the heating season. A blocked or defective chimney can cause both chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning, so it's very important to employ a professional qualified chimney sweep. Some people do try to clear their own chimney by 'burning it through', this is a very dangerous thing to do and the Fire Service has attended many fires started in this way.

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service offer free home fire risk checks, providing advice, checking existing smoke alarms and in certain cases may be able to supply and fit new smoke alarms for free. If you feel you would benefit from a FREE home fire safety visit regardless of your age or circumstance, please call Free Phone 0800 169 1125 & remember smoke alarms save lives.

Feeling The Pressure:- If you are a member of the farming community and you are going through difficult times, due to overwork, anxiety, illness, isolation, debt, bereavement or any other situation that maybe making you feel the need to speak with someone, there is a charity called '**Farm Crisis Network**' that helps farming people with these issues. The FCN helpline is open every day of the year between 7am & 11pm and if you feel the need to speak with someone, then you can ring them on **03000 111 999 (daily 7am to 11pm)**. Alternatively you can E-mail them at chris@fcn.org.uk. The FCN also has a website www.fcn.org.uk.

National Property Register:- We urge you to safeguard all of your valuable items that have serial numbers, frame numbers, chassis numbers or other unique identifying marks. You can do this for free by registering them with the National Property Register. It's a good way of protecting your personal valuable items. Just go to: www.immobilise.com and enter the IMEI, serial number or other unique identification numbers. Any item can be added, including mobile phones, play stations & X-box consoles. You can also add other household items ranging from TVs to toasters, bikes to jewellery. Give it a try, it's easy to do.

Social Media:- If you use social media & would like to be kept up-to-date with information on the work of your Local Neighbourhood Police Team, then why not follow us on Facebook & Twitter;
Facebook: Ribble Valley Police. Twitter: @RibValleyPolice.

In The Know messaging system:- If people you know are not signed up to 'Stay in the Know', ask them to go to <http://www.stayintheknow.co.uk> to sign up so they too can receive important and useful alerts.

Find out more about us on...



www.lancashire.police.uk



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