

Marlborough Town Council

December 2016

1. Wiltshire East Community Policing Team

Sector Head: Inspector Nick Mawson

Sector Deputy: Sergeant Mark Andrews

Community Coordinator: PC Teresa Herbert

Marlborough PCSO's : PCSO Mark Braithwaite.

As we move towards the festive period, Wiltshire Police is preparing to launch our annual Christmas campaign on Monday 12 December.

At this time of year, many people across the county will be out celebrating the festivities with friends and colleagues at Christmas parties and as usual we'll be pointing out the dangers not only of drink driving, but drug driving too.

Despite the dangers being well known, some drivers continue to put other people's lives at risk by drinking or taking drugs before getting behind the wheel. Take a few minutes to plan your safe journey home, share a lift with someone who is driving, book a taxi, or if it is safe, arrange to walk home with some friends.

Officers will be out and about throughout the period to offer reassurance and advice, and to help keep everyone safe.

There are of course other dangers at this time of year. Criminals are more than ready to take advantage of some of the more vulnerable people in our society. A lot of people will be out Christmas shopping and this inevitably means more people carrying cash.

We would always advise to:

- Only take out as much money as you need, keep it in a purse or wallet and safely tucked away.
- Never leave your bags unattended, particularly on shopping trolleys and be aware of people around you at all times.
- Carry your bag close to you with the clasp facing inwards.
- Keep it zipped up, and make sure your wallet or purse can't be seen.
- Avoid carrying valuables or large amounts of cash and spread your possessions about. For example, consider keeping your mobile phone

separate from your keys and your store or credit cards separate from your purse.

- Finally, never carry PIN numbers with any cards.

With an increase in shopping, vehicles can also be a target for thieves as shoppers fill their cars with presents as they visit different shops and shopping centres in Wiltshire. We would always advise to:

- Try to keep shopping out of view, and if you can, take it home as soon as possible.
- In a town centre the safest place to park is in a car park with a Secure Car Park or Park Mark award. Try to park in a well-lit area, even if parking during daylight, it may be dark when you return to your vehicle.
- Lock the doors, windows, boot and sunroof every time you leave your car - however briefly.
- Do not leave anything of value in the vehicle whilst it is unattended. This includes satellite navigation systems, mobile phones, laptops, handbags and jackets. If it is unavoidable, turn all electrical items off and place in the boot.
- Leave the glove compartment open to show there is nothing of value stored within.

More and more people choose to shop from the comfort of their own homes every year and there are plenty of things you can do to stay safe online too:

- Only use well known websites and ones that you trust. Auction sites can be a great way to grab a bargain but remember, if it looks too good to be true, it may well be.
- You don't need to give anyone else your passwords, PINs or any other personal information to shop online. This is your information and yours alone.
- Keep an eye out for scam emails, texts, calls or even people trying to sell things at your door. If in doubt send them away, and call the company they are claiming to be from to double check.
- Avoid viruses, no not coughs and colds - don't open emails from anyone you don't recognise, it could be a scam. You don't always have to enter your information to be at risk.

If you follow our advice to stay safe at parties, shopping and while buying online, we're sure you'll have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more information about our Christmas campaign, and for more tips to stay safe this Christmas.

COMMUNITY MESSAGING

We are constantly reviewing our visibility and how we can develop this and work with our communities.

We cannot physically be everywhere all of the time and we want to ensure consistent information with our communities and to be able to provide the information that matters to you when you need it.

There has been some good feedback from our new way of working using Community Messaging so please sign up and use it.

<https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

CONTROL STRATEGY

Below is our control strategy for your reference. This focuses on where how we conduct our operational Policing based on the Police & Crime Plan. We will continue to align our resources with the threat/harm/risks presented in line with the control strategy.

- Domestic abuse / Cyber Crime / High risk offenders / High risk victims



LOCAL CRIMES

Within the town during November we have been dealing with several thefts from local stores including mobile phones and make up.

A male has been arrested and dealt with via a conditional caution following criminal damage to a shop window at 0300 hours on 6th November 2016.

Two males have been arrested on suspicion of purse thefts in Marlborough and Salisbury following our investigation into those which occurred during October 2016 in Marlborough.

Three dwelling burglaries have occurred in the town including two daytime - one on 11th November 2016 and the second at Kingsbury street between 1200-1600 on 14th November 2016, forced entry via the front door, nothing stolen.

One such incident occurred during the evening of the 24th November 2016 as released to the press;

Police are appealing for information and urging residents to be vigilant following an incident in Marlborough yesterday.

At approximately 7.15pm, an elderly woman was in bed at her home in Homefields, when she heard a bang and then noticed a man at her bedroom door. The woman questioned the man, and he apologised before running down the stairs and out of the property. The front door had been damaged during the incident.

The man is described as slim, of average height, and possibly aged in his 20s or 30s.

Earlier the same day, at approximately midday, a man had called at the woman's house stating that she had a loose roof tile. The woman told him she had already arranged for repairs to be carried out and the man left. This man is believed to have been driving a lorry which had a low bed with a ladder on top.

PC Teresa Herbert, community coordinator for Wiltshire East, said: "We are in the very early stages of the investigation and we are keeping an open mind as to whether or not these two incidents are linked.

"This was understandably a very frightening experience for this elderly woman who has been left extremely shaken up as a result.

"We would like to reassure the local community that we take reports of this nature extremely seriously and understand that news of crimes like this can be frightening to our elderly community. We are carrying out a thorough investigation including house-to-house enquiries and we will be analysing all CCTV footage from the vicinity that is available to us.

"We are keen to hear from anyone who saw or heard any suspicious activity in the area of Homefields yesterday evening between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Did you notice any suspicious vehicles or people you do not recognise? Please call 101 with any information, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem."

By adhering to the following advice, you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary or bogus callers:

- Always keep your door shut and locked.
- If someone comes to your door and you aren't expecting a caller it is important that you check who it is by using a spy-hole or look through a window. Do not open the door to anyone you don't know or are not expecting.

- Official visitors will always arrange an appointment with you beforehand - if no appointment has been made, don't open the door.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash at home - it is much safer in a bank or building society.
 - Always keep purses and wallets hidden away, out of sight.
 - Never keep pin numbers with credit or debit cards.
- Never agree to have work carried out by someone who is just passing, or believe such people when they claim that repairs need to be made. If you think work might need to be done get quotes from three companies and ask friends and neighbours for recommendations.
- If you see anything suspicious or think a bogus caller may have called at your door, report it to police immediately by calling 999.

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust (WBVT) will visit the elderly victims of these crimes. Bobby Van provides a home security service for elderly, vulnerable and disadvantaged people throughout Wiltshire. The charity operates two Bobby vans that provide mobile workshops for Bobby operators. For more information please go to: <http://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/>

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...
<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Members of our Police community support officers are available the first Wednesday of each month at the town market in The High street, Marlborough.