

'You said we did'/ Priorities

Anti-social use of vehicles – Recently new bollards have been placed into the overflow carpark at Manor Road recreation ground to stop cars going in there at night and causing issues. This area and also the Mably Way surgery car park are still being regularly patrolled by officers and encouraging cars to move on. Warning letters have been sent to two car owners this month that we believe to be involved, reminding them of their responsibilities and our powers. If you see a vehicle acting anti-socially please contact us on 101 and provide vehicle make, colour and registration number if possible.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB). Reports of ASB have been few and far between last month. We are continuing to work with key people, their families and partner agencies to help keep reports and re offending low.

Vehicle crime: The Wantage area has seen a rise in vehicle crime lately, especially tool thefts from vans. Please take measures to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this crime. If possible remove tools from your vans overnight, use vehicle alarms and add extra locking mechanisms. Park in well-lit, busy areas and consider installing CCTV. Mark tools to make them less desirable to sell and increase your chances of getting them back. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Offenders brought to justice

- Paul Tidbury was sentenced to eight weeks imprisonment for Fly Tipping in East Challow and East Isley, he also had to pay a contribution to the council's costs of £200 and victim surcharge of £115
- Wantage Neighbourhood team and the Vale Problem solving team conducted a warrant on a property in Wantage in November. A 15 year old male was arrested for possession of a class B drug and a 21 year old male was arrested for possession of a class B drug with intent to supply. Both have been released while the investigation continues.

Crime prevention advice

Here's a bright idea! Now is the ideal time to look at your home security. If you're not at home during the hours of darkness, you may be at an increased risk of burglary. If no light is on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that nobody is at home. At this time of year it pays to secure your home. There are a number of simple and free ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your home becoming a target.

Visit a local retailer and pick up a 24-hour segment timer for under £5. The timer can be used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home. Remember to use an energy efficient light bulb. Register your valuables on www.immobilise.com it's free and takes just a few minutes and if your valuables are stolen, will allow you to tell the police, your insurer, and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catch the thief. Keep valuables out of sight, lock your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door, make sure you have double locked it.

Crime prevention surveys

The Wantage and Grove Neighbourhood Police team are able to offer a free crime prevention survey on your property and are able to give advice on suitable products and tips, to reduce the chances of being a victim of burglary. If you would like a survey please call the non-emergency number: 101 and ask to speak with someone from the Neighbourhood Police team.

The festive season is now in full swing, make sure Santa is the only stranger entering your home! The festive season can mean burglary season. As this time of year can be so busy it's easy to forget things and become distracted.

- When out shopping don't leave presents in your vehicle it takes seconds for someone to grab them from your vehicle, and never leave your keys in the car.
- Hide your presents until Christmas day, displaying presents under the tree in full view could prove too tempting to an opportunist burglar.
- If you are going away, be cautious when using social media such as Facebook – do you really want to advertise that your home is empty.
- Use timer switches on lamps and if you feel you can, ask your neighbours to keep an eye on place, you could even invite them to park on your drive.
- Dispose of boxes and rubbish discreetly. Leaving boxes outside will give away the fact that you have new and valuable items in the house.

Many of us will be attending parties, and enjoying the Christmas and New Year cheer.

- Drink sensibly and stay with your friends and plan in advance how you will get home
- Save the number of a licensed taxi firm in your mobile phone
- Don't accept drinks from strangers and never leave your drink unattended
- Avoid walking alone through dark or unsafe places (men as well as women)
- Keep your belongings with you and your valuables out of sight

DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE! Remember you may still be over the limit the morning after.

The Wantage Neighbourhood Team would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email WantageandGroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale 