

Rural Crime

During February we have been working closely with farmers, landowners and gamekeepers running various daytime and night time operations to help reduce rural crime, various vehicles were stopped during these operations and a Jeep Cherokee 4x4 was seized and later crushed for being used in crime. During this period we have had reports of hare coursing near Childrey, damage to crops near Blewbury and theft of a quad and chainsaws from farm outbuildings in Ginge.

You said we did

Over the last few months we had reports of vehicles being used in an anti-social manner around Mably Way Health Centre, Wantage. Following from this we have patrolled the area regularly and engaged with various groups, most have been parked up and not causing any issues so suitable advice has been given. Recently we came across two males on mechanically propelled scooters riding in an anti-social manner so both were issued with a Section 59 warning, this means if they are caught again in similar circumstances we have the power to seize the vehicle. Following from this we have seen a decrease in reports of this nature.

Offenders brought to justice

Back in January there were a few thefts of tip jars and purses from businesses in the Wantage Town Centre. Luke Jordan McDonagh aged 27 was found guilty of five thefts and one burglary to a shop in Wantage and was also found guilty for a burglary to a hotel in Chipping Norton. Mr McDonagh was sentenced in February to a total of 24 months imprisonment.

Witness appeals

Overnight between Tuesday 20th February and Wednesday 21st February a distinctive dark green/cream MG Magnette, index B***73C was stolen from Harcourt Way, Wantage. If anyone has any information regarding this or if anything was witnessed please contact 101 quoting reference 43180054944.

What the neighbourhood team have been doing

- PCSO Tom Walcott-Smith recently attended Millbrook School, Grove and completed a presentation on internet safety and cyber bullying to the Year 6 students. With the internet and social media being ever more accessible this was an excellent opportunity to educate the students on how to stay safe online.
- PCSO Keith Jennings attended the Harwell 'Little Pippins' Preschool and the young children enjoyed playing in the police car and listening to AA Milne poetry from When We Were Very Young.
- PC Sarah Merritt attended a theme day at King Alfred's School to talk to the children about Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Drug Exploitation and grooming. Sarah will be back at the school later this month for another theme day and will also be attending a parents evening where, alongside other agencies, we will be running workshops and talks to help parents identify the dangers to their children and receive advice on any concerns they may have.

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. Please also follow us on Twitter @TVPSouthandVale.

