

Wiltshire Police

Malmesbury Town, Rural including Ashton Keynes & Minety



October/November 2009

Sergeant's Message

With the BBQ's and patio furniture put away for another season its only seems like yesterday we were all planning our summer activities. Well at least the vegetable garden did well from the many rainfalls! Some good news that did come out of the summer was the very low calls of antisocial behaviour (ASB). It is not uncommon when schools and colleges break up for us to see a peak in calls for ASB. This year was different so let's hope that this new trend continues.

Young people, and we have many thousands of them in the community are often easy targets for the blame behind ASB. Considering the numbers living in our community I think this is very often harsh labelling. There are a handful of young people that do engage in ASB, and it is our job along with our other partners to ensure that those individuals are put back on track and offered guidance to kerb their offending behaviour. ASB can be, and does get committed by both the young and old alike. If your neighbourhood is experiencing issues with ASB, then please contact your local Policing team, housing Officer or the Wiltshire council ASB reduction Officer. Together we will build and enhance our communities.

Extra patrols are taking place in your neighbourhoods over the Halloween and bonfire periods. Officers have scanned the logs to build up a picture of any calls from the previous year and will incorporate this into their patrols. If you have any concerns please contact your local team.

Enjoy the Autumn and stay safe,

Martin Alvis

Neighbourhood Police sergeant for Wootton Bassett, Malmesbury & Cricklade.

Malmesbury Town Update Recent Crime Trends

There have been three incidents of suspicious behaviour in the town centre involving individuals using distraction techniques to commit theft. In the first incident an elderly resident was approached by two males who asked her to look at a map and show them directions to the nearest railway station. Whilst doing this one of the males reached into her handbag but was seen by a vigilant neighbour who bravely stopped him and detained the men until the Police arrived and arrested them. Both of the suspect men were Non British Europeans and officers were aware of a similar incident occurring prior to this in the Marlborough area. In the second incident a resident was approached in the Market Cross by two males with a map who asked for directions. On this occasion the resident was immediately on her guard due to the forceful nature of their behaviour and managed to disengage herself from them without any personal loss. She later reported this to the Police as a suspicious incident.

The latest incident involved two females driving their vehicle into the private courtyard of a town centre property and when challenged by the owner stated that they were just turning round. However shortly after leaving, one of the females returned and when challenged again she just kept saying that she didn't understand. She left when she was told that the Police were being called. Both females were described as Non British Europeans with swarthy complexions.

Please be mindful that opportunistic criminals such as these are known to visit market towns along the M4 corridor, especially on pension days, targeting elderly females and charity shops in

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particular. The motorway network enables them to drive in and out of the county in a very short space of time therefore it is really important that any incidents of this nature are reported immediately if we are to be given any chance of catching them.

Kebab Van – Malmesbury By-Pass

In May of this year we conducted a house to house survey in the Silver Street / Back Hill / Baskerville area as part of our consultation plan. Many residents expressed concern about the kebab van situated on the by-pass and the anti-social behaviour issues caused by people walking to / from the van and town centre, particularly late at night after pub closing times. We firstly ascertained that the van was only licensed to trade up until 11.00pm which we immediately enforced. Prior to this the van had been trading into the early hours of the morning. Subsequent investigations revealed trading law infringements which enabled us to discourage the owner from continuing to trade in Wiltshire and the van was permanently removed in early July.

Road Safety Awareness

All drivers are reminded of the need for caution in relation to the danger of livestock straying onto the roads around Malmesbury. It is inevitable that in a rural location such as ours that this will happen but in the last 2 months there have been 18 police logs involving such incidents. On one occasion a car collided with two cows and they unfortunately had to be destroyed.

Beat Surgery

Neighbourhood Policing Beat Surgeries continue to be held at Malmesbury Police Station between 1.00 and 3.00pm every Thursday. The surgery is not for reporting crime or producing driving documents but it is a good opportunity to meet with a local officer and discuss any concerns you may have. If you have any concerns and are not able to attend a surgery please contact us by telephone or email and we will make every effort to arrange an alternative time / venue to meet with you.

Priority 1

Anti-Social Behaviour Market Cross

Regular targeted patrols continue in the Market Cross area and we have seen a further reduction in the number of reported incidents. Patrols are also active in the seizure of alcohol from underage drinkers, particularly on weekend evenings. Through our liaison with local licensed premises we are confident that alcohol is being purchased on behalf of underage drinkers by irresponsible adults and would urge anyone witnessing alcohol being handed to young people to report it immediately.

Priority 2

Anti-Social Behaviour Station Yard Car Park

This continues to be the most policed area of Malmesbury and in addition to local officers the Road Policing Unit have carried out operations in the vicinity leading to various penalty tickets / warnings being issued. The multi-agency work involving our key partners is progressing and improvements

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to the engineering of the site by Wiltshire Council are being considered along with other long-term improvements to the overall management of the area.

Local Events Update

The Malmesbury Festival passed without any incident of note and Carnival night drew large numbers of people into the Town Centre for the processions and customary festivities in the Town's public houses. A high visibility, proactive approach to the policing of this event resulted in no arrests being made or any incidents of violent crime being reported and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Regards

PC Sam Bussey
PCSO Dee Curran

Malmesbury Rural Update Recent Crime Trends

Ecclesiastical Crime in the region has seen an increase in recent weeks with an attempt theft of lead from the roof of an outbuilding at St Aldhelms Roman Catholic Church in Malmesbury; and the theft of cash from donation boxes at Churches in Sherston and Crudwell. The price for scrap metal has risen again and people are urged to look out for any suspicious activity around the areas Churches. These buildings get few visitors during the day unless a particular event is on.

20-25 pairs of top range Wellington boots were stolen, along with 50 gallons of diesel fuel from a business park in Easton Grey over the bank holiday weekend. Suspicious callers had been challenged in the previous days at a business park in neighbouring Pinkney. Please report any vehicle registration numbers and vehicle and person descriptions where persons are acting suspiciously at business parks or isolated locations, including farms. We shall be happy to make discrete enquiries. It may be nothing, but it may help prevent or solve a crime in your area.

Current Priority: Speeding

This priority is coming to a successful conclusion. Some villages have participated in the Speed watch Scheme and have been out monitoring traffic speeds in their areas. A number of fixed penalty notices were issued in recent weeks thanks to the assistance of traffic officers at Wiltshire Police. The local NPT have also been out and about monitoring traffic speeds and educating drivers.

Serious road traffic collisions in the region have thankfully been very low this summer, although there have been quite a few single vehicle accidents in recent weeks where people have been distracted or less cautious when the weather has suddenly worsened. With the winter months soon approaching, it would be wise to keep a check on tyres, brakes and windscreen wipers in particular.

Regards

PC Louis Bowden
PCSO Durry Maule

Ashton Keynes & Minety update

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It's the time of year where the nights are drawing in and it is becoming darker earlier on in the evening, please bear this in mind when riding on bicycles and horses in and around the villages. Be safe and be seen. The weather has been sporadic to say the least and we are still experiencing the occasional 'hot spell'. Your neighbourhood policing team would like to remind adults and children that swimming in the local quarry is both dangerous and is also trespassing. There have been a couple of tragic incidents nationally where young people have been swimming in quarry's and have drowned so please ensure that any young children or teenagers are prevented from doing this.

The Halloween and bonfire night celebrations will soon be upon us and your local police would like to remind residents to follow some guidelines to 'trick or treaters' to ensure that everyone is able to enjoy these seasonal festivities lawfully and peace fully.

When trick or treating you should stay as safe as possible by following the Halloween Code:

- * Always go trick or treating with an adult
- * Only go to houses where you or your friends know the residents
- * Don't knock on doors where there is a 'No Trick or Treat' sign
- * Stay in well-lit areas with street lights - take a torch with you just in case
- * Stay with your friends - don't split into smaller groups unless an adult goes with you
- * Don't talk to strangers on the street
- * Don't enter any house - stay on the doorstep
- * Be careful not to frighten vulnerable people
- * Be visible
- * Look carefully before crossing the road, even if you're part of a group
- * Don't vandalise anything or throw things like eggs and flour.

It is illegal to let fireworks off in a public place; those who do not respect the law can be fined up to £5000. Police may also issue an £80 fixed penalty notice.

Please keep your celebrations within the law, be considerate to everyone and stay safe over Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Pc Angela Shipp
Beat Manager.

Neighbourhood Watch "Column"

Hello all,

Well we have had our summer! Thankfully, it was fairly quiet on the crime front.

But let us not be complacent, the nights are drawing in and the "opportunists" are still about.

Now is the time to take stock of your home security. You will no doubt have put away garden machinery, furniture etc for the winter, but are they secure? Does your shed have a lock? Do you lock your garage or just pull the door down? These are minor things, but they can make all the

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difference. The chances are that a thief will not waste time struggling to enter a secure area, but would be in and out in seconds if it was not secure.

Why don't you pop along to your local hardware store, or DIY outlet and check out their security offering, it need not be costly. Tough padlocks and robust door locks can make the difference between security and distress.

Bonfires can be a necessity, but also a nuisance, give consideration to neighbours by checking wind direction and even telling them in advance. Fireworks can cause a lot of distress to family pets, so again talk to neighbours if you are going to have a firework party.

Much is talked about Internet fraud, it is costing £billions! If you can only remember one thing, it is this :- **Banks do not ask for account details by email or telephone. if you are contacted then delete or hang up.**

Finally, our police colleagues cannot respond if they are not informed. If you see something suspicious don't "sleep on it" and maybe report next day .. that's too late! If it is an emergency or 'crime in action' please dial **999**, if it is a concern of a more general nature, then telephone **0845 408 7000**, or call in at Malmesbury Police Station on a Thursday afternoon to talk about your concerns or worries.

It is only by working together can we make our community a safer and better place to live.

Ian Mace
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