



### Westbury

Hello and welcome to this month's Community policing report.

The festive season is particularly tempting for criminals as they expect to find gifts and high value goods in people's homes and cars. It is important to ensure that your house is secure and that you take precautions to stop criminals who will have no thought about taking your carefully chosen gifts for loved ones.

As we all know, our towns will be exceptionally busy and with increased numbers of people on Wiltshire streets, it is easier for thieves to strike unnoticed.

Below are a few simple tips to help prevent you not becoming a victim of crime whilst out and about during the Christmas period :

- When out shopping, keep your purse and handbag near you
- Keep any cash that you may have on you to a minimum
- Mobile phones and wallets in back pockets are a target - ensure that you keep them secure and out of sight
- Be careful at cash machines and when paying with your card - shield your PIN at all times.

With increased numbers of shoppers on local streets, there are inevitably more vehicles in car parks which provide more opportunities for criminals. Don't let your vehicle be an easy target by following the advice outlined below:

- Don't leave Christmas presents or other valuables like laptops, mobile phones, handbags, credit cards, cheque books or vehicle documents in your car. If it is unavoidable - place them in the boot and ensure equipment is completely switched off
- Remove Satellite Navigation systems and clean away suction marks on windows
- Make sure car doors, windows and sun roofs are all properly closed and locked
- Remove your stereo if you can - mark it with the vehicle registration number if you can't
- Leave your glove box open to show that there is nothing in it
- Leave absolutely nothing on show - you may know that there is no wallet in your jacket, but a thief will break a window just to check.
- If you own a van, make sure you remove tools overnight and display an appropriate sign in the rear window making this clear.

It is equally important to keep your Christmas gifts safe at home by following the points outlined below:

- NEVER open your door to anyone that hasn't made an appointment - if you are expecting them, always check their identification and if you are at all suspicious, contact Wiltshire Police by dialling 101
- All doors should be fitted with a minimum of 5 lever mortice locks
- All windows should be fitted with locks except any designated as a fire escape
- Close and lock all windows and doors when leaving the house - even if you are just going into the garden
- Keep front and back doors locked whilst you are in your home to prevent individuals walking in without your knowledge
- Close all windows when leaving a room - especially those at the front of the house
- Double check that all doors and windows are locked at night
- Keep valuable items out of view and reach of windows and doors
- Never leave a spare key in a hiding place like a plant pot or letterbox – a thief knows all the hiding places
- Keep car keys out of sight - never leave them on view
- Hide financial documents – if someone does break in, you don't want them to also steal from your bank account
- Lock tools and ladders away so that a thief cannot use them to break in
- Never leave a shed or garage unlocked, even when you are gardening - especially if it has a connecting door to your property.
- Make sure you have good lighting around your property
- Consider investing in a burglar alarm
- Secure the rear access to your home - A thief is less likely to be seen at the rear of your property
- Make sure any hedging at the front of your property is no higher than one meter. This will allow a passer-by or neighbours to see anyone acting suspiciously
- Mark all valuable items with a property marking system identifiable to you
- Take photographs of all jewellery including hallmarks and keep them safe. Don't leave valuable jewellery in a box on your dressing table - it's the first place a thief will look
- Make a list of the serial number of your electronic items and keep it safe
- Make sure you have up-to-date contents insurance
- Register all electronic items and any others with serial numbers at sites such as Immobilise.co.uk
- Join your local Neighbourhood Watch. If there isn't one, consider setting one up yourself.

It is important not to stop thinking about safety after Christmas day too. Make sure you don't put your rubbish out too early. Putting packing and boxes on display will advertise all the new items you have in your home providing thieves with a checklist of your equipment for them to steal.

## **CRIME EXCEPTIONS**

**These figures are based on an evaluation of data, over a two year rolling period. Using this data we can predict what figure is the average that should be reported in a specific month, and what are the higher and lower parameters that we may expect. Figures outside of these parameters are classed as 'Crime Exceptions'.**

### **Westbury Town**

The month of October saw 106 reported incidents, compared to 146 reports incidents during the same time period last year.

There were no crime exceptions throughout the month, however offences of theft are showing towards the upper parameters that we would expect to see. This is largely related to offences of Theft from Motor Vehicles as per below.

October saw a number of reports of Theft from Motor Vehicles. The most common type of vehicle that has been targeted is work vans, and tools are being stolen from within.

We appreciate that it is not always possible to remove vast numbers of tools from within the vehicle, however where this is possible, it is recommended.

You are able to register valuable items free of charge at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) , a property register that helps police identify your property, and catch criminals. You can also consider registering expensive items with a forensic marking company such as SmartWater – [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) .

October saw 4 reports of Dwelling Burglary, to a residential property. Two of these incidents saw entry gained to the properties by smashing a window at the rear of the property. The other two incidents, entry was gained via insecurities.

### **Westbury Rural**

The month of October saw 26 reported incidents, compared to 31 reported incidents during the same time period last year.

October saw 1 report of Dwelling Burglary, whereby a blunt instrument was used in order to try and obtain entry to a PVC window and door. No entry was gained to the property, and nothing was stolen.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Our Tasking Team (CTT) has been carrying out a number of enquiries relating to dwelling burglaries across the West Wiltshire policing area, and whilst these enquiries are going on behind the scenes, there is a great deal that the community can do to protect themselves against being a victim of this type of crime :

[feedback@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:feedback@wiltshire.police.uk)

Getting into the habit of doing a routine 'security sweep' before you go to bed, this could include checking that all windows and doors, including garages and outbuildings, are locked and that the keys are removed from locks. Ensure that any vehicles owned by you, are locked and that all valuables are removed from within.

Take your keys, and any other valuables such as laptops and handbags / wallets, to the bedroom.

Do not leave keys in doors, or at a point that can be easily reached or visible through letter boxes and cat flaps.

If you have a garage, consider parking your vehicle close up to the doorway. This limits the opportunity for criminals to open doors.

"Remove it from view" – Consider what others can see through your windows and doors.

Finally, if you see anything that you believe is suspicious, please report it.

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...

<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

**Sector Inspector – Inspector Andy Fee – [andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

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