

West Mercia Police

BISHOP CASTLE & RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team

Date: December 2017 – Newsletter

Where we work

BISHOPS CASTLE & RURAL SNT is based at Bishops Castle Police Station, Union St, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AJ. We work around the Parishes and area's of Bishops Castle, Mainstone, Colebatch, Clun, Llanfairwaterdine, Newcastle, Stowe, Bucknell, Bedstone, Hopton Castle, Clungunford, Aston on Clun, Hopesay, Clunbury, Edgton, Wistanstow, Lydbury North, Lydham, More, Norbury, Wentnor, Ratlinghope, Stiperstones, Worthen & Chirbury.

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team are:

PC 3233 Anne Gutteridge
PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss
PCSO 40274 Harry Horlock
SC 39810 George Edwards

Police contact numbers

Emergency: **999**

Non Emergency: **101**

Bishops Castle voicemail: **01743 264777**
(Not to be used for reporting crime, incidents or emergencies)

Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**

Web site: www.westmercia.police.uk

Twitter: **@SouthShropCops** Facebook: **Bishops Castle SNT Rural Watch**

Contact Email address:
bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CRIME STATS

Please note not all crimes or incidents are recorded below due to the nature or on going investigations.
There were **145** incidents recorded for the area between **14th November – 13th December 2017**

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED CHIRBURY, WORTHEN, HOPE, SHELVE & STIPERSTONES 14th November – 13th December 2017			
CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Theft	Tools	Bentlawnt	Items returned to owner. Offender dealt with via community resolution
Assault & controlling behaviour		Chirbury	Suspect remanded
Assault		Chirbury	
Theft	16 sheep hurdles	Nind	Occurred 15 th November
Theft	5 ewes and 5 lambs	Nind	Between October and November

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED BISHOPS CASTLE, LYDHAM & MAINSTONE 14th November – 13th December 2017			
CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Criminal damage	Rear number plate broken off vehicle.	Welsh St, Bishops Castle	Overnight 5 th – 6 th December
Assault x2		Bishops Castle	
Burglary	Store broken into & ATM machine attacked, money taken	Spar store, Bishops Castle	02:10 29 th November. CID investigating.
Criminal damage to motor vehicle	Large piece of concrete thrown at car windscreen	Grange Nursing Home, Bishops Castle	During the day 29 th November
Criminal damage to motor vehicle	Rear near side window broken on a car	Church St, Bishops Castle	Overnight 20 th – 21 st November

CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED LYDBURY NORTH, EDGTON, HOPESAY & WISTANSTOW 14th November – 13th December 2017			
CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Theft	Tools handed to believed con men to sharpen. The men have not returned with the items	Outskirts of Craven Arms	Persons cold called at the property. Occurred 29 th November

**CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED
MORE, NORBURY, RATLINGHOPE & WENTNOR
14th November – 13th December 2017**

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Theft	Prattley sheep handling system stolen without trailer	Field near Norbury football club.	2 nd – 4 th December

**CRIME/INCIDENTS TO NOTE REPORTED IN
CLUN, CLUN VALLEY, LLANFAIRWATERDINE, HOPTON CASTLE & BUCKNELL
14th November – 13th December 2017**

CRIME REPORTED	DETAILS	LOCATION	NOTES
Assault		Clungunford	
Theft	Scrap metal	Clungunford	Overnight 6 th – 7 th December
Assault		Bucknell	
Burglary	Phone mast site broken into, batteries stolen	Black Hill	15:30 – 18:50 24 th November
Criminal damage to motor vehicle	Sharp object used to scratch vehicle. Vehicle has previously been targeted	Square, Clun.	Overnight 17 th – 18 th November
Harassment		Clun	
Criminal damage to motor vehicle	Green liquid poured over vehicles bonnet, removed cars paint	Square, Clun	Around 17:00 15 th November

Anyone with any information as to whom carried out these crimes please contact Crimestoppers (**0800 555111**) or West Mercia Police on **101**

CRIME STATS

Crimes, ASB and other incidents recorded in your area are now available on the website - www.police.uk

BISHOPS CASTLE SNT ON FACEBOOK

For regular updates of local crimes, scams, incidents and suspicious vehicles you can follow or 'like' our facebook page - **Bishops Castle SNT Rural Watch.**

CURRENT PACT PRIORITIES

TACKLING ACQUISITIVE RURAL CRIME

There has been a spike in theft from vans with power tools being the main target. South Shropshire has seen over 35 vans targeted since September. These have been mainly overnight offences in the Bishops Castle area however the offenders have been targeting vans during daylight hours on other neighbouring areas including over the border on Dyfed Powys Police. Many targeted vans have been Ford Transits of which are easily opened by offenders due to poor locks. Transit owners are advised to fit other locks to rear and sliding doors.

Reports of scrap metal theft have also been in the increase over Autumn and Winter as the scrap value has increased.

Local officers to target known local individuals in order to disrupt offending. Regular liaison with neighbouring officers in order to share intelligence with reference to cross border offenders.

Local officers will attempt to visit every outbuilding burglary to conduct enquiries, offer crime prevention advice and sign up potentially vulnerable premises to the 'Stop Thief' initiative which offers discounted crime reduction products.

HARE COURSING

Now that the crops have been harvested we have already had reports of males trespassing on private land believed to be engaging in hare coursing. This will likely be a constant issue throughout the winter months.

The particular areas near Bishops Castle of Lea, Totterton, Plowden, Two Crosses and The Home have been popular areas for hare coursing over a period of years now and it often attracts coursers from afar. The individuals have been known to be part of the criminal fraternity, possibly with links to organised crime.

The coursers that come to this area are often groups of men and travel in old tatty vehicles, usually estates or 4x4s. They will park up in gateways, down tracks or in un-gated fields. Coursers will often walk along the edge of a field to frighten a hare into the open before setting their dogs upon it.

Local officers will target the known areas in order to deter any potential coursers. Stop checks will be conducted on any potential offenders and reported for any offences. Any reports of suspect vehicles will be placed on social media, local gamekeepers will be made aware of potential vehicles used by coursers that have come to the attention of the police on neighbouring areas.

If any potential hare coursers are seen then please report via 101, where possible please obtain the vehicle details.

How to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary.

Most victims of burglary are concerned that they have been specifically targeted or watched for a period of time prior to their burglary, to determine what their movements are. However, most burglaries are opportunistic.

Burglars choose houses that have little or no obvious security, appear unoccupied, have easy unobserved access to the side and rear that provide them with the chance to gain entry without being seen or heard

Simple crime prevention measures really can make all the difference such as leaving the lights on in main rooms and keeping a radio switched on and tuned in to a talk radio station. Thieves are essentially lazy opportunists, and if they have to make a lot of noise, spend a lot of time, or risk being seen, they are unlikely to bother.

Use your lights and keep them on a timer, switch them on early, even if you leave them on while going shopping or on the school run. Try and use the lights in a main room and not in the hallway so it looks like someone is home. Keep your radio switched on and tuned in to a talk station so it sounds like someone is at home. Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice, make sure you switch them on when you go out. Stop a thief from getting into the back of the house where they can work unseen by fitting a strong, high gate across a side passage. If a burglar does get into your home then they tend to target jewellery or money, a safe is a good investment for securing valuables, house burglars rarely come equipped to attack a safe.

If you would like further crime prevention advice you can email the team on bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all at Bishops Castle Police Station.

