

Shoplifting

We are pleased to say that we have seen a reduction in shoplifting on our area. A lot of this is due to the excellent vigilance of Security at Waitrose. If you do see anyone shoplifting please alert staff in the store.

Building site burglaries and Site Watch

Over the last couple of months the Didcot and Wallingford Neighbourhood Policing Team have been setting up a new initiative to help reduce crime on building site in Didcot and Wallingford. It's an initiative that will be called Site Watch and its aim is to reduce the amount of thefts that takes place on the building/construction sites in Didcot and Wallingford. The team have been visiting the building/construction sites in the area and have been speaking with the site managers who all seem to think that the initiative is a good idea.

Due to the response from the sites in Didcot and Wallingford the initiative is going to be extended to the South and Vale area. The idea being we will be providing regular alert updates to all the members on the list informing them of any successes, requests for sightings vehicles/persons and current criminality trends impacting on building /construction sites. This will hopefully improve communications between the police and the constructions sites, along with the sites communicating between themselves.

Shed burglaries

We are still experiencing garage and shed breaks on our area. Please see below for some crime prevention advice to help you from becoming a victim of this crime. The neighbourhood team are continuing to do patrols in order to deter offences. Please remember to report all breaks and attempted break-ins by calling 101.

Crime prevention advice

Many sheds whilst being of good construction fall short on basic security. It is easy to unscrew the ironmongery, steal contents and in some cases replace the screws to make it look as if the shed has not been tampered with. By using tamper proof screws or coach bolts together with a good quality pad bar or hasp and staple and close shackled padlock, the shed owner will make it harder for the would-be thief. It is also a good idea to bond any window glass in, with mastic to prevent easy removal.

- Ensure all tools and equipment is locked away when not in use.
- High-quality locks should be used on doors. Windows can be fitted with a grille or, as a cheaper alternative, chicken wire, to slow a thief down.
- A shed alarm can also be installed.
- Post-coding or indelibly marking all property such as lawnmowers, bikes, and tools using ultra-violet pens, forensic marking such as Selecta DNA or Smartwater or engravers.
- Installing security lighting as a deterrent, and plants such as thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points.
- If building a shed, putting it where it is most visible to you and neighbours.
- If you see anything suspicious please phone 101 or if you believe a crime is in the process of being committed 999.

Witness appeal – sexual assault

We are appealing for witnesses following a sexual assault in Wallingford. The incident took place on Friday, 16 February, at about 11.30pm in High Street near to Croft Road and Station Road. The victim, a 35-year-old woman, was walking along the High Street towards Wallingford. She was near the benches on the outskirts of Kinecroft Park when she was approached by a man who sexually assaulted her by touching her inappropriately. The offender is a man aged between 20 and 30, and is about 5ft 3ins tall. He has a slim build and was wearing a dark coloured body warmer with no sleeves which had lines across it.

He was also wearing a dark long sleeved top and jeans. The victim was not injured as a result of the incident. Investigating officer PC Alison Foster, based at Didcot police station, said: "At the time the victim was walking along the High Street near to the benches, other members of the public were walking in the direction on the other side of the road towards Wallingford town centre.

"I believe that one of these people may have been a woman who was walking three dogs.

"I would like to speak to these people, or anyone else who has any information which could help our investigation."

If you have any information relating to this case, please call 101 quoting reference '43180050501', or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Community engagement

The team have been giving sexting talks at Europa School in Culham and visited the local Rotary club to give a talk on crime prevention and scams. If you would like us to come and speak to your school or group please contact us.

The Didcot and Wallingford teams held a **Cover It Live** session last Friday. The aim of this Web chat was to give the public an opportunity to ask us questions. Thanks to everyone who took part. We will be running more events in the future that will be advertised on this newsletter and also via Thames Valley Alerts and Twitter.

Hidden Harm Campaign

Many of our schools visits recently have been focused on online safety for children which we are running as part of our **Hidden Harm Campaign**. For more information please visit

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/protecting-yourself-and-others/online-child-abuse/ to find out more about online child abuse.

Parking

We are receiving increased reports around parking on zig-zags by pedestrian and pelican crossings. Could we please remind you that this parking offence will not only incur you a large fine but also three points on your licence. The zig-zag markings are there to protect pedestrians so please do not park on them.

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 WallingfordNHPT@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.

