

WHADDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It is pleasing to report that Whaddon continues to be a relatively crime free area with few of the problems that still plague some of our neighbouring villages. That said, it remains important that everybody avoids inviting unwanted visitors by leaving homes or other property insecure, something the police regularly ask us to remind all villagers, particularly during the very occasional warmer Summer days when windows are left open. The theft of vehicle keys is more popular these days because cars are much more difficult to break into. Keep in mind where you keep your car keys and avoid somewhere that can be easily seen through a window or is adjacent to an external door.

Problems since the last Whaddon News have been a break-in at the village hall in early July. Fortunately, other than damage to the window nothing malicious happened inside the hall. The village hall, particularly at the rear, and the play area are vulnerable and worthy of anybody in that area keeping a watchful eye – particularly in the evening. A bicycle was also stolen in the village which serves as a useful reminder to record a bike's serial number to help possible later identification. Perhaps it's a reflection on the rising price of basic foods but sadly milk was stolen from a doorstep in Meldreth Road.

The car park at Whaddon Gap continues to be a source of problems. It remains a popular spot for fly-tippers and a car was also recently set on fire there. Both matters involve the District Council clearing up the mess which, of course, costs us all in the long run. If you are in that area please keep an eye open for potential problems and if you see something take a note of any car registration and either tell the police on the 0845 number, or a parish councillor or one of the NW coordinators.

We actively discourage cold-calling at front doors and on a couple of occasions when a NW coordinator has been told that someone is in the village knocking on doors we have notified one of the PCSOs and they have quickly appeared to talk to the person involved. Your coordinator has "we do not buy at the door" stickers if you would like one.

On a more general note, the police have told us that distraction burglary remains a problem in the local area. Also with the price of fuels the theft of all fuels but particularly red diesel from farmyards is on the rise, that catalytic converters with their precious metals are now a popular target for thieves with higher commercial vehicles that offer easier access being a particular target and also that theft of horse tack is an increasing problem. All of these issues have not been a recent problem in Whaddon but this column serves as a useful way or keeping everybody in the picture.

In late July three of us from Whaddon NW attended the latest Bassingbourn/Melbourne Neighbourhood Policing Panel meeting at Bassingbourn Village College. It is clear that anti-social behaviour continues to be the biggest problem in the larger local villages with some noticeable improvements in Bassingbourn but with much yet to be achieved in Melbourne. Besides addressing this problem, metal and fuel thefts are the main issues on the local police agenda. Both the Whaddon representatives and others from local villages insisted that the police keep speeding high on their agenda. We noted that there had not been a recent check on Whaddon and the lack of availability of checking equipment makes it unlikely there will be one in the near future.

Finally, Emma Garwood, one of our PCSOs was selected for training as a police officer and started her training in early August. Emma was an active and well regarded PCSO and will be missed. We await the name of her successor and hope to see Emma back in this area at the end of her training.

For all the problem issues that are mentioned in this article, please remember that we live in a relatively crime free village but this can only continue to be the case if we are all mindful of the potential problems and play a role in keeping Whaddon safe and secure.

Neighbourhood Watch Team

Mike Monks	Cluster Coordinator	58 Bridge Street	01223	208236
Malan Peyton	Dep Cluster Coord Parish Council NW Rep	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green	“	207358
Coordinators:				
Anne Brandon	Lower Meldreth Road	132 Meldreth Road	“	207347
Karen Coningsby	Upper Meldreth Road/ Church Corner	17 Church Street	“	207514
Carole Aldred	Church Street	104 Church Street	“	208147
Wendy Paton	“	108 Church Street	“	207703
Clare Byatt	Town Farm Close	Turpins Farm House	“	207429
Tony Gardner	Lower Bridge Street/ Ridgeway Close	29 Bridge Street	“	208064
Andrew Townsend	“	36 Bridge Street	“	208038
Geoff Lane	Upper Bridge Street (38-72)	52 Bridge Street	“	208540
Mike Monks	Upper Bridge Street (“)	58 Bridge Street	“	208236
Malan Peyton	Dyers Green	Ermine Farm, Dyers Green	“	207358

Local law enforcement

Inspector Chris Savage	Sawston Sector Inspector
Sergeant Mark Kathro	Sawston Sector Sergeant
PC Andy Bates	Neighbourhood Policing Constable
Lee Nutbeam.	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
John Coppard	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Ashley Bennet	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Contact with the police – dial 999 when:

- * lives are at risk / violence / serious injury
- * serious crime is happening
- * criminal still at the scene or nearby

Cambridgeshire’s non-emergency telephone number is: 0845 456 456 4

This number puts you through to a centralized 24 hour service centre where you can report non-emergency matters.

If you experience any crime or security problems please use the 999 or 0845 number as appropriate. It would also be very helpful if you would remember to keep your NW coordinator in the picture so that we can keep an eye on issues and happenings in the village that might affect everyone.

For more information on the local neighbourhood police team go to:

<http://www.cambs.police.uk/myneighbourhood/index.asp>