

WHADDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I had no sooner written in the last Whaddon News that the village has been relatively crime free than on Friday 5 September we had an incident in Bridge Street that was unpleasant and made many of the local papers.

Late in the evening, residents of a house became aware that an intruder was stealing from a car parked in their driveway. As it happens the car belonged to a visitor from France. The owner and the visitor apprehended the individual who was hiding in the ditch and had stolen items on him and then called the police. Within a short time, PC Andy Bates our local village officer who was on his way home after his shift arrived in Bridge Street and quickly apprehended two East Europeans, apparently Lithuanians, near the top of Bridge Street. He then proceeded to the house where the intruder was being held and arrested him. As Andy was going off duty he had called for back-up and further police arrived. The two Lithuanians first apprehended were released as, in the eyes of the police, they had not been caught actually doing anything wrong and the detained intruder was taken to Parkside. After due investigation, during which we understand the individual pleaded guilty, he was released with a police caution – something that has caused a great deal of anger and frustration, not only with those directly involved, but also with many neighbours who clearly felt that a caution was an ineffective response to an unpleasant incident.

The following morning, a nearby neighbour found that the side window of a car parked in their driveway had been smashed and the CD player and mounting had been pulled out. This was reported to the police and a scene of crime officer was promised but failed to

appear. The two incidents were not linked by the police at the time and as far as we know this is still under investigation.

Since the incident the police have stressed that a police caution is a serious matter and includes DNA being taken and the person having a criminal record. Whaddon Neighbourhood Watch both soon after the incident and at the later Bassingbourn/Melbourn Neighbourhood Policing Panel meeting pointed out that to residents it appears a caution is no more than a slap on the wrist with no affect on the individual's pocket nor on his liberty.

Other than this incident, it has been fairly quiet in Whaddon although anti-social behaviour and burglary problems are still an issue in the local larger villages with Bassingbourn more settled but Melbourn still requiring more than its share of police attention.

Metal thefts are declining but are still an issue as is fuel theft, particularly red diesel. There also continues to be a problem with distraction burglary so please be on your guard and don't be tempted to let a caller you don't know into the house whatever the pretext unless they have an official ID such as a meter reader and then only if you are absolutely happy they are who they claim to be.

A reminder: only use 999 when lives are at risk, violence and serious injury is involved, a serious crime is happening or a criminal is still at the scene or nearby. Otherwise use the 0845 number below. Misuse of the 999 number is a major problem in this county and is diverting or slowing down the response of the emergency services.

Finally, we welcome Carl Fillary a new PCSO to the local area.

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	“	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)
Carl Fillary	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>