



Hello and welcome to the Community Policing Team Report for DEVIZES Town and DEVIZES Rural.

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We invite you to play the 'Game of Homes'

We are waging war on opportunist burglars and asking members of the public to play the Game of Homes. To play you must take some simple steps to help prevent yourself becoming a victim of burglary and make life hard for your enemies.

Summer is coming.

Words of warning and vigilance from House Wiltshire Police. Summer months bring opportunists who are willing to take what does not belong to them. We urge residents to protect their castles* and prepare for battle.

(*terrace, bungalow, semi-detached and so forth.)

The nicer weather often means castle windows and doors are left open, the drawbridge is down and nobles are enjoying the grounds. For an opportunist burglar this is like the stars aligning, providing easy access to your treasure and free roam of your castle.

Heed our warning. If you are not blessed with owning a dire wolf or a set of dragons we recommend you take these simple steps:

Your first defence of your front door:

- Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even when just in the garden. And make sure you have approved locks or bolts to all doors and windows.
- Trim back any plants and hedges at the front of your property to no higher than one meter to remove hiding places.
- Consider defensive planting. The use of prickly plants creates a physical and psychological barrier and have proven to be a successful deterrent.
- Never leave a spare key in a hiding place like in a plant pot or letter box - a thief knows all the hiding places.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm, and only use a company that is registered or certified with the NSI or the SSIAB.
- Consider installing dusk-to-dawn lighting out the front of your property
- Often burglaries take place when the house is empty during the evening or in the hours of darkness. Use automatic timer switches to turn lights on when it gets dark, these can also be used to turn on other appliances such as radios.
- Ladders and garden tools should be locked away, as they can be used by offenders to gain access to your home.

Always be one step ahead of the enemy if they unfortunately do breach your walls:

- Take photographs of all jewellery including hallmarks and keep them safe. Also consider using an artificial DNA property marker on jewellery or other valuable items.

- Register all serial numbers from electrical items, tools and garden equipment with Immobilise.com the free national property register. Mark items without serial numbers with an artificial DNA property marker such as Smartwater or SelectaDNA.
- Ensure that all security products and service providers are Secured by Design approved.

In the spirit of Game of Homes, we have set up our own game, you can test your castle defences by visiting the Wiltshire Police Website.

More information about how you can protect your castle is available on our website. Rally your allies, know your neighbours and consider joining or starting a neighbourhood watch scheme.

Superintendent Sarah Robbins, Head of Crime for Wiltshire Police said: "Burglary can have a devastating impact on a person both financially and psychologically, so it is important that we continue to educate the public to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

"Whilst the 'Game of Homes' is a fun and innovative way for us to raise awareness, here at Wiltshire Police we are under no illusion that most people don't live in a castle and dragons and dire wolves are things of fiction.

"However, we do know the opportunist burglar is very real, and as the evenings become lighter, and the weather is nice these individuals aim to take advantage of those who have left their property insecure, and take what is not theirs.

"Some of the advice may seem obvious, but we continue to receive reports of opportunist burglaries and by putting in place some simple precautions people can reduce the risk and improve the security in and around their home

"We urge all residents to follow our prevention messages and to work with us by reporting anything suspicious on 101."

Police and Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson, said: "Preventing crime is one of the key priorities I give Wiltshire Police; a priority which forms part of the Police and Crime Plan.

"I am pleased to say that Wiltshire continues to be one of the safest counties to live in - burglary has gone down significantly in the last year.

"However we are not complacent and I urge the community not be complacent.

"Burglary affects how people feel in their own homes, a feeling which can remain long after the incident or possessions have been replaced.

"The public play an important part in crime prevention and if we all take a few simple steps, together we can continue to take action against this horrible crime."

If you have any information about offenders or see something suspicious, please call Wiltshire Police on 101, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. In an emergency dial 999.

Festivals and Camping

Festivals are full of fun-loving people who want to have a good time.

But they can also be targets for thieves and opportunists. This list of common sense safety tips can help you have a crime-free festival.

- If you need to take valuables with you consider their safety. Don't leave them in your car or unattended. Use onsite locker facilities if they are available
- Stay in groups and be tolerant of others
- Keep your mobile charged - most festivals have onsite charging points
- Only bring the cash and cards you need - most festivals have cash points on site. Split your money and cards into two and keep in different places
- Find the information and first aid points at the beginning of your stay so you know where they are should you need them
- Remember, alcohol and drugs affect your ability to make safe judgements
- If you need medicines with you onsite, keep them with you or secure in the onsite lockers
- Organise a meeting place with your friends so you can meet if you get split up

Camping

- Mark your property and tent with your postcode - the bigger and brighter the better
- Put your tent up in a well-lit area, near the fire tower or by the zone managers caravan if possible
- Don't leave valuables in your tent, or padlock your tent thinking valuables will be safe - they won't! Take valuables with you or use onsite lockers
- Make friends with your camping neighbours but remember, no matter how friendly they are, they are still strangers
- Put something distinctive on a pole by your tent so you can find it quickly and easily

PRIORITIES IN YOUR AREA:

Anti-Social Behaviour - Devizes Town and Market Lavington

It is essential that we tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) within our community. ASB is defined as, *“Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.”* We have had an increase in reports of this type of behaviour in both Devizes and Market Lavington.

ADVICE:

Please report any behaviour as defined above to 101.

Rural Crime – Hare-coursing and Beauty Spot Thefts

It is imperative that we maintain a high visible presence within our rural county. As the spring/summertime is fast approaching, we anticipate an increase in visitors to both our Beauty Spot areas and countryside. We will be aiming to regularly patrol our Beauty Spots and our rural sites that unfortunately do become a target of vehicle and rural crime.

ADVICE:

It is important for members of the public not to leave any valuables within their vehicles. It is also important for members of the Public to report any suspicious activity to us.

Vehicle Crime– Community Speed Watch/Drink Driving

Keeping our roads safe is extremely important within our area as we have several A Roads that pass through DEVIZES. We will be receiving fortnightly updates from our Community Speed Watch Teams with specific areas to target.

ADVICE:

It is important that we work with the general public to identify unsafe road users within our county.

We hope to show how hard we will be working to target the Roads through our Social Media updates.

CRIME UPDATES:

Potterne:

On 02.05.19 a road traffic collision occurred on Blackberry Lane. No injuries were present and drivers exchanged details.

On 02.05.19 a known male was arrested following a pursuit of a vehicle after failing to stop. He was found to be driving while disqualified and under the influence of drink/drugs. As well as a bladed article, the male was also found to be in possession of cannabis.

On 03.05.19 a vehicle was stopped by officers as it was driving incredibly slowly. The drivers were seen to be in possession of an illegal drug. Investigations are ongoing.

On 22.05.19, unknown suspect(s) has opened the doors of a van and gone through the door pockets and taken a wallet containing £20 cash, a debit card and loyalty cards.

Between 31.05.19 and 01.06.19 Unknown suspect(s) have gained entry into the IP's vehicle by unknown means and have made a search of the glove box, Suspect(s) have then stolen a dash cam.

Urchfont:

On 07.05.19 it was reported that a male was going door to door selling items. Officers located the male, who provided them with a legitimate Peddlers Licence.

Market Lavington:

On 12.05.19 a road traffic collision occurred on Black Dog Crossroads. Three vehicles were involved, there were no injuries. Police cleared the road and arranged recovery.

On 15.05.19 it was reported to us that youths were causing Anti-Social Behaviour in the rugby fields, opposite Lavington School. Units attended but did not locate the youths.

On 15.05.19 a male was seen at three different businesses acting suspiciously and looking under cars. Police have been patrolling these areas on a frequent basis.

On 19.05.19 a male has entered a high street store on two occasions and stolen 2 pouches of tobacco. Investigations are ongoing.

West Lavington:

On 01.05.19 on Stibb Hill, a road traffic collision occurred where the drivers have attempted to pass on the narrow lane and damage was caused to the vehicles. Investigations are ongoing.

Easterton:

On 20.05.19 a male was driving his car down the main high street and crashed into a tree. He then fled the scene on foot. Police units arrived, including the dog unit, the drone unit and the helicopter unit. The male was located at an address in West Lavington and was arrested for assault, drink driving and drug driving.

Worton:

On 20.05.19 a road traffic collision occurred between a car and a lorry where debris from the collision has hit an oncoming cyclist causing abrasions and a possible fracture of the hand. Investigations are ongoing.

Erlestoke:

On 22.02.19 an unknown male has thrown a package over the prison. Investigations are ongoing.

Please dial 101 to report a crime and 999 in an emergency.

Please follow us on:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice>

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR: Potterne, Great Cheverell, Little Cheverell, Erlestoke, West Lavington,
Market Lavington, Littleton Panell, Easterton, Urchfont, Worton and Marston. May 2019

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/>

Or sign up to Community Messaging <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

