

## **Police File (01/09/2012 – 24/11/2012)**

### **Crime of note**

CR/37301/12 – 13/11/2012 – Theft of traffic light batteries – Alyth to Glenisla Road

**CR/31152/12 – 04/09/2012 - Theft by Housebreaking – Kilry Schoolhouse - DETECTED CRIME ( part of a series – travelling criminals )**

### **Community Safety**

#### **OPERATION AFTER DARK**

The increasing hours of darkness provide opportunities for a potential thief. A property left in the dark in late afternoons or early evenings is a house that looks unoccupied and is a temptation for criminals. Members of the public are reminded to endeavor to make properties safe by taking simple security measures. Setting timers on internal lights and radios gives the impression that the house is occupied. Fitting or checking external security lights are in working order, and locking all doors, windows and sheds will improve the safety of the property. Furthermore, valuables should be security marked with the relevant postcode and house number in order to increase the probability of the goods being returned to the rightful owner should they be recovered.

Be a good neighbour, particularly if you have older or vulnerable neighbours. Anyone aware of any suspicious activity should contact Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222. Or, if you see a crime in progress, call 999.

#### **Personal Safety**

With the festive season fast approaching, Tayside Police warn revelers not to expose themselves to unnecessary risk or situations that might result in a Christmas or New Year they would rather forget. As a society, we consume more alcohol at Christmas than at any other time of year. Problems can, and do, arise when people drink too much and become the perpetrators or victims of crime. Alcohol affects your judgment and lessens your inhibitions and that is when you are at greater risk. Angus residents and visitors are asked to remain vigilant, drink responsibly, and think about your own personal safety.

#### **BOGUS CALLERS**

Tayside Police is issuing a stark warning to public. If you give out personal banking information over the phone you could risk losing thousands of pounds in cash.

Please do not give out any personal information over the phone, and if you receive visitors to the door, ask to see identification. If still in doubt, call the company concerned – though be sure to get the number from the telephone directory and not from the ID card.

#### **BICYCLE SAFETY**

Tayside Police in Angus are increasingly concerned about the rise in the number of recent reports about inconsiderate, erratic and ultimately dangerous behaviour of young cyclists in the area.

The manner of their cycling puts them and other road users at serious risk, particularly during hours of darkness, when some have been on their bikes without wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and without proper lights and reflectors fitted to their bicycles.

The Highway Code provides rules and advice for pedal cyclists and by following these, cyclists can help themselves to keep safer when out cycling

## **Recent Crime Trends in Angus**

### **THEFT OF METAL & FUEL**

The theft of metal, particularly copper and lead, from properties in Angus continues to be reported. This is no doubt linked to the high value of scrap metals. Rural properties are the most commonly targeted premises.

Also, the theft of fuel continues to be reported, and again this is linked to the high price of the commodity.

Please secure all property where appropriate, remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222.

#### **THEFTS FROM INSECURE PROPERTY**

Despite being highlighted on numerous occasions, most housebreakings happen to insecure property. The same is true for theft of contents from motor vehicles. Thieves are opportunists; please don't make it easy for them and secure all property.

Bicycles can be security marked, at a cost of £5. Please speak to your local community officer.

#### **CAR CRIME**

Car crime tends to be a crime of opportunity but, by applying simple security measures, vehicle owners can reduce the chances of becoming a victim of this type of incident. Drivers are advertising their personal belongings to the opportunist thief by leaving property and valuables in open view.

Drivers must ensure that their vehicle is secured when left unattended and that no property is left in open view. If car owners cannot take their property out of the car, it should be locked away out of sight in the boot. Doors should be locked and, windows closed.

Sat navs, mobile phones, iPods, bags, and wallets are particularly attractive to thieves and should not be left in an unattended car.

CD players and radio cassettes should be removed wherever possible. Anyone with a face-off stereo should remember the purpose of its design and take the front fascia out of the unattended car, as without it, the stereo is inoperable and, therefore, less likely to be stolen.

Crime prevention-wise, drivers should try to park their vehicle in a busy area and – at night – somewhere that has good lighting. Supervised car parks offer one of the safest places to park and, when at home, householders should use a garage if they have one.

Most vehicles these days have alarms and/or immobilisers as standard. Anyone whose vehicle does not have this type of security measure should give consideration to fitting one or both.

Anyone who has information regarding thefts from vehicles can contact Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

#### **Road Policing**

##### **WINTER DRIVING**

Adverse weather conditions, shorter daylight hours, lower temperatures and hazardous road surfaces make driving more difficult for motorists in the Winter.

Making sure that your car is fit to drive over the winter months could be a matter of life or death. Worn tyres and faulty brakes can prove deadly when combined with difficult driving conditions. Check that lights are clean and working, the battery is full and keep the windscreen and windows clean and the water bottle filled with screenwash to the correct concentration.

##### **DRINK DRIVING**

Driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol continues to be a significant issue in Angus, as well as nationally. Tayside Police will continue to take robust action against offenders. Anyone with information in relation to drink / drug drivers is encouraged to report this to either Tayside Police or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Tayside Police have a policy whereby offenders caught at more than twice the legal limit, those who have been involved in a collision while under the influence, and those that refuse to provide a specimen will be kept in custody until the next available court day instead of being released on an undertaking to appear.

##### **DEER**

Over the last two or three decades, the number of Deer related road traffic accidents has increased significantly, with the resultant increase in costs of human death and injury, animal welfare and material damage. This increase has been experienced at a more local level. October and November

are peak months for deer collisions due to the change in clocks meaning that rush hour coincides with dawn and dusk and it being the breeding season for many deer species

**Alan Bell is your local Community Landward Officer and can be contacted on direct dial 01575576625 or by Email on [a.bell@tayside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:a.bell@tayside.pnn.police.uk) . He is happy to speak with you regarding any complaints or minor issues you may have .**

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