

## **Police File ( 31/05/2012 - )**

### **Crimes of Note**

**CR/25870/12** – Theft by House Breaking – Airlie area – 02/08/2012 – 09/08/2012 – Lawnmower

**CR/25277/12** – Theft by House breaking - Airlie area – 05/08/12 – Tools

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

#### **Theft from outbuildings**

Tayside Police in Angus are asking residents to look at security issues surrounding gardens, garden sheds and outbuildings following recent incidents in the area. Fences or boundary walls should be kept in good repair. It is advisable to keep fencing at about waist height to the front of your house so the garden is visible. A criminal is far less likely to go to the front of a house that is easily seen by passers by. Equally, shrubs should be trimmed to no more than waist high and trees should have branches lopped to a height of about 2.2 metres. Remember, trees and bushes can be used as climbing aids to gain entry to property. As such, the use of thorny shrubbery such as berberis or hawthorn can be a good deterrent. Tools, ladders and garden furniture should be safely stored away. Mark property by painting, engraving, etching or using an ultraviolet pen with your post code. Remember to secure your shed and lock up garages at all times.

#### **School Road Safety**

As pupils have recently returned to school following the summer break, Tayside Police is reminding everyone to take care on and around the region's roads, particularly when traveling to and from school. If your child is going by bus, ensure they understand the need for safe behaviour whilst waiting for and travelling on the bus. Once they get off the vehicle, make sure they know to wait until it has moved off before attempting to cross the road. Where possible, they should always use a safe crossing place. If you are taking your child to school by car, ensure that they are suitably restrained and do not release their seat belt until the vehicle is safely stopped. Always let your child get in and out of your vehicle at the pavement side. All drivers should note that on Thursday 20 August a National Seatbelt / Speeding Day of Action will see Police Officers focusing their attention on transporting children to and from school with the objective of highlighting the necessity of safe school journeys.

#### **Hare Coursing**

Given that over the next couple of weeks the grain should be harvested and as such fields will be bare, conditions are becoming conducive for the illegal practice of hare coursing. Hare coursing was completely banned in 2002, however incidents of this nature continue to occur throughout Angus and further afield.

Anyone who has any information about people who are involved in, or who they suspect to be involved in, hare coursing or poaching, can call Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222 or provide details anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

#### **Drugs**

In common with other areas of Scotland, drug abuse continues to be a challenge in Angus. Residents can be assured that our officers will exploit every opportunity to tackle drug dealing in our area and we in turn would ask them to give us the information we need to target the dealers and put them before the courts. Please report any such activities to either Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Recent crimes/issues in the area:**

#### **Money Scam**

Tayside Police is again warning all retail outlets to be on their guard against a scam – commonly known as Ringing the Changes – where thieves aim to confuse staff into giving money away. The appeal follows recent incidents in the Angus area that have netted fraudsters hundreds of pounds in cash.

The scam involves shop staff exchanging substantial sums of money to a seemingly innocent customer seeking change. In truth, the customer is a practiced criminal who relies on some well-rehearsed patter and sleight of hand to take full advantage of shop worker's good will. Very often it is only when the so-called customer has left that the deception is discovered.

Anyone who has concerns about individuals who may be carrying out these activities should contact Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222. In an emergency contact 999.

### **Farm Machinery**

Tayside Police are urging farmers not to leave farm machinery or vehicles unattended in fields overnight. Recently a large quantity of fuel was stolen from a combine harvester which was parked in a field overnight. Unfortunately the large quantities of fuel such machines hold, the quiet unclassified roads which border the fields and the darker nights drawing in make fuel thefts attractive to the criminal.

Don't make it easy for a thief by leaving expensive machinery and large quantities of fuel lying at the side of roads. Farm vehicles and machinery should be secured away at the end of the working day in suitable outbuildings which are secured by key operated locks. Simply securing the vehicles themselves in a field is not a sufficient form of security. Furthermore, vehicles and machinery should be refueled in the morning to prevent them being left overnight with large quantities of fuel

## **Road policing issues locally:**

### **Motorcycles**

Tayside Police would like to remind motorcyclists to take care when out on the roads or they could risk losing their lives. The road network in Angus is attractive to motorcyclists. The number of recreational motorcyclists has shown a marked increase nationally. The main period of motorcycle activity is between April and September; however better machines and equipment means that many of the riders now use their motorbikes for most of the year. The majority of motorcycle fatalities occur on a Sunday afternoon / early evening.

### **ASB on Angus Roads**

Police in Angus warn those who commit anti-social driving offences in the area that robust action will be taken and legislation in place to deal with such incidents will be enforced.

The warning comes following recent complaints from residents in Angus about the standard of driving of some motorists in and around local towns and villages. Examples include drivers sounding horns late at night or when not required, revving engines excessively whilst parked, moving away from junctions at speed, noise from screeching tyres and those riding trail bikes on common land or footpaths.

This behaviour causes annoyance and misery to those experiencing it, particularly so if it is happening on a regular basis.

Anyone who has concerns regarding anti-social driving in their area should contact Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222

**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. He is presently promoting Smartwater DNA Marking in your rural area for the farming community. If interested give him a call.**

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