



HARROGATE BUSINESS WATCH - SECURITY ALERT

The following information from North Yorkshire Police may be relevant to your business in the Harrogate area.

DELIVERY VEHICLES THEFT

A recent trend has continued where thieves are ransacking commercial vehicles while doors are left open, when drivers are delivering to or working at nearby premises.

A box containing thousands of pounds worth of jewellery was stolen from a delivery van while parked in James Street outside the Britannia Building Society at 10.30 am on Monday 17/3/03. The box containing rings and jewellery was taken from the van when the rear shutters were left open.

On Tuesday 18/3/03 another delivery van was parked outside the Yorkshire Bank in James Street, from which thieves stole a large cardboard box containing a computer.

Police would like to speak to two men in connection with these thefts. One was described as in his mid 50s, of slim build, 5ft 6in with cropped white hair, wearing light blue jeans and sweater. The second man was described as of medium build, 6ft, with short black hair, which is curly and longer on top.

BREAK-INS TO STEAL CAR KEYS

Recently burglaries occurred at Grantley, Winksley and Studley Roger near Ripon. Each Offence was committed by the offenders entering the building through insecure windows or doors. Property was stolen along with the keys for the occupants' cars, which were also stolen from outside their homes.

A white coloured Vauxhall Cavalier was seen in the Grantley area. This vehicle has not yet been traced by the police who are keen to identify the occupants of this vehicle at that time. Any information to PC 833 at Ripon 01423 539621

The police stress that all householders resident in towns, villages or rural locations get into the habit of using their keys and locking doors and windows whether in at home or when out. This is in some cases, a matter of changing daily routines and with no cost; in fact it could save money by removing a potential target for the opportunist thief.

DOORSTEP TRADERS

There have again been several incidents involving 'Fish Sellers' calling house-to-house and targeting elderly residents to pay large sums of money for poor quality or small quantities of fish. The fish sellers usually operate from a small blue van and the occupants are white males and one speaks with a North East Accent.

The police are keen to advise residents that certain standards must be maintained to sell food from a vehicle and that any information about them or their activities is of interest to the police and to North Yorkshire Trading Standards Officers.

We are asked to remind you that all food products offered for sale in sealed packs should have the weight clearly marked on it and that the same standard of hygiene applies to van sales of food products as it does to shops.

Can you please look out for these types of product vendors as the police and Trading Standards need to know whom they are. If you have them call on you, let the police know where they are so they can try and check them out.

FARM MACHINERY THEFT

The police are interested in speaking to the occupants of a blue coloured Vauxhall Combo Van part registration number R***JBD. Seen on the 4th March 2003 in the Blubberhouses Area with 2 male occupants who are believed to be involved in the theft of Farm Equipment and machinery. If seen please contact the police immediately on 01423 505541 for the information of PC151 Tetley.

NOTE: This is a new service for Chamber members. Any feedback would be welcome.

Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce

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