

## Heysham South, Middleton & Overton. December 09



### November 09

#### Incidents reported during the month.

**A vehicle** parked on Middleton Road in Heysham was damaged at about 20:40 on 04/11/09. The offenders damaged the rear quarterlight before making off undetected.

**Fencing panels** at a property on Heysham Hall Grove were damaged overnight 04-05/11/09.

**Offender/s threw a brick** through the rear screen of a vehicle parked on Smithy Lane overnight 06-07/11/09.

**A green Hyundai Coupe, Reg P687HEC**, was taken from outside the registered keepers property between 03:30 and 16:30 on 15/11/09.

**All sightings of this vehicle should be reported to the police.**

**The nearside window** of a vehicle parked outside the registered keepers residence, on Sycamore Gardens, Heysham is believed to have been damaged by a baseball bat at about 23:07 on 20/11/09. A witness saw the incident and a description of the offender was given to the police.

**A bus travelling along Heathfoot Avenue**, Heysham was damaged by unknown means. The incident occurred at 11:20 on 21/11/09.

**The driver's front side window**, of a vehicle parked on Low Road, Middleton, was smashed by unknown means at 18:55 on 23/11/09.

**A business premises**, located at Heysham Business Park, was burgled between 15:30 21/11/09 and 14:00 28/11/09. The total value of goods taken was £38.

## Council Tax Scam

The latest from Lancashire Constabulary and Morecambe and Heysham Citizens Advice Bureau details a council tax scam:

The details may be different in each situation but the theme is the same. In each case the caller claims to be phoning from 'The Council' regarding a refund on your Council Tax.

The caller explains that your property has been re-banded to a lower band and you are therefore entitled to a refund.

The caller quotes the customers full address and phone number but they never mention or ask about any reference numbers.

The caller ask the customer for their card details (Long number on the front, the security code and the expiry date) in order that the refund can be returned to the correct bank account.

**Once they have your card details and the security number on the back they can take as much money from your account as they want.**

**What you must do if you receive a phone call.**

- **Do not engage in conversation**

**The council tax department would never phone regarding a refund of council tax. They would write to you first.**

- **Do not give them any personal details – not even your name.**

- **Do not give them your credit/debit card details especially the security code.**

- **Consider signing up to Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707 or [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)**

## Always remember

**If you fall victim to this SCAM:-**

Consumer Direct for advice  
08454 04 05 06

## How to avoid becoming a target for crime

**As the festive season rapidly approaches, the opportunist thief will be preparing to take advantage of the fact that we are all too busy getting ready for the celebrations and we are perhaps not as security conscious as usual. Suffering a crime over the holiday period has the potential to ruin what should be a happy occasion.**

Do you know? In one in three burglaries, the thief didn't have to force entry into a home. Residents simply left windows or a door open when they went out or were in another part of the home! Prevention therefore doesn't have to cost money. Closing windows, locking an external door whilst you are in, or moving car keys so they can't be fished through the letterbox, will all help.

## Remember

- Make your home look occupied. Burglars do not want to be seen or disturbed. Convincing them that someone is at home is undoubtedly the best deterrent.
- Make sure that you lock all outside doors and windows and if you have a burglar alarm make sure it is set, even if you only pop out for a few minutes).
- Use automatic timer-switches to turn your lights on when it goes dark. You can convince any potential burglar that you are at home by having plug-in timer controls for lamps. Don't just have the hall light switched on when you're not in. By having lights that switch on in the bedroom, kitchen and lounge copy your usual evening routine. This is important in the dark winter afternoons as well as evenings. You could also arrange for your curtains to be closed in your absence by a trusted neighbour if you are away. A plug-in timer for the radio would make it sound as if someone was home. Tune the radio to a station that has more talking than music – do not keep your television on – this is a potential fire hazard.

## Protect your Vehicle

- Car crime is often thought to be committed by sophisticated high-tech criminals. In reality most of the crimes are

opportunistic. The thieves simply wander around looking for any item left on show and then steal it by smashing a window. Similarly, older cars with no additional security devices are stolen using basic techniques, whilst more modern cars tend to be stolen by first stealing the keys.

- Always keep your vehicle locked (including windows) even if you only leave it for a few seconds.
- Get into the habit of not leaving any item in the car. The cost of replacing a broken window is often far more than the value of goods stolen. If you can, take your belongings with you rather than leaving them in the car.
- Don't leave keys in a coat pocket and leave the coat unattended. Be aware of dropping keys into bags or briefcases where they might remain visible.

## Personal Safety

- Walk confidently and be aware of your surroundings (don't play personal music devices or use your mobile!). This will put off many attackers.
- Wearing a shoulder bag with the flap facing you and the strap over your arm and head rather than just over the shoulder or arm could reduce the chances of theft.

- Always leave a club or pub with a friend and let someone know where you are. Make plans beforehand on how you are going to get home and what time. It is always sensible to arrange a lift home with a friend, husband, wife or partner.
- If you have to telephone for a taxi, always try to use a firm you know. If you have a mobile phone, programme in the number. Don't get into a private hire taxi (they look like a normal car) unless you have booked the car first. Only hackney carriages (traditional black cabs) are insured to carry passengers who have flagged them down. Always sit in the back, preferably behind the driver.
- On public transport try to sit near the driver, avoiding an empty upper deck on buses and vacant compartments on trains. If you are pestered by someone, complain to the driver or guard. They can get help by radio, telephone or alarm depending on the type of transport. Many buses and taxis have CCTV installed.
- If you have no choice but to walk alone at night, it is best not to take any shortcuts through dimly lit areas. Also it is wiser to walk facing the oncoming traffic where you can be seen and avoid the surprise of a vehicle approaching from behind.

- Further information on home and vehicle security together with personal safety can be obtained by contacting:

Lancashire Constabulary  
 Crime Prevention Department  
 Morecambe  
 01524 596988



Thanks to Inspector Steven Wade and his team from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary from their base at the Power Station for their presence in the area.

You may have seen adverts on the TV, or heard them on the radio, for the Justice Seen Justice Done campaign.

This is a month long Home Office campaign highlighting what you should be able to expect from your local police force (and other agencies) when it comes to dealing with crime and justice.

Justice Seen Justice Done will demonstrate that there are consequences for those who break the law and that the police and local authorities are responding to issues that matter to the public.

It also focuses on the Policing Pledge - a set of national standards outlining the level of service you can expect to receive from your police force.

### **As part of Justice Seen Justice Done, we want you to know -**

- There is a neighbourhood policing team in your area working with you to keep you safe. Look out for posters in your local neighbourhood publicising who they are, call 0845 1 25 35 45 for details or visit [www.lancashire.police.uk](http://www.lancashire.police.uk) to look up your local officer.
  - Neighbourhood police officers are there to assist with a wide range of issues ranging from anti-social behaviour to drug related crime.
  - Local neighbourhood police teams have seized nuisance bikes, closed down drugs dens, secured Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and successfully tackled a whole range of other local problems.
  - Through initiatives like PACT, we want to work with you to identify what concerns you the most so that we can address it.
  - If you call or e-mail a neighbourhood officer you can expect a response within 24 hours.
- Neighbourhood policing teams aim to spend at least 80% of their time working in local neighbourhoods
  - Local police aim to be with you within 60 minutes if you are vulnerable and upset or if your issue relates to an agreed neighbourhood priority.
  - For more information about the Policing Pledge and crime and justice in your area visit [www.lancashire.police.uk](http://www.lancashire.police.uk) or [direct.gov.uk/policingpledge](http://direct.gov.uk/policingpledge)



**The Heysham South Neighbourhood policing team wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**



December's Heysham South PACT meeting was held at the Youth & Community Centre, Douglas Park on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Next PACT meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Venue: Youth & Community Centre, Douglas Park.

Date	This month's priority	Update on last month's Priority
7/12/09	No priority set. The Heysham Neighbourhood Policing team will be vigilant in all areas during the festive season.	The areas around Middleton Road, Smithy Lane, Heysham Hall Grove and Heysham Park are seeing youths congregating and being a nuisance for local residents by acting in an anti-social manner. This sometimes spills over with some acts of criminal damage being caused.  No calls were logged during November for this area.

### Heysham South Neighbourhood Policing Team

[Heyshamandwestened.npt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Heyshamandwestened.npt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk) Use this e-mail address for a response with 24 hrs.

**PC 1176 Neil Tomlinson, Heysham Community Beat Manager can be contacted on 01524 63333**

[Neil.Tomlinson@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Neil.Tomlinson@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)

Police Community Support Officer 7791 Linda Willis 01524 63333

[Linda.willis@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Linda.willis@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)

Police Community Support Officer 7147 Chris Dyson 01524 63333

[Chris.Dyson@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Chris.Dyson@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)

Police Community Support Officer 7733 Emma Bond [Emma.Bond@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Emma.Bond@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)

Police Community Volunteer 13781 Graeme Austin [Graeme.Austin@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Graeme.Austin@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)