

## Heysham South, Middleton & Overton. February 2010

### Incidents reported during January 2010.

#### Can you help the police with their enquiries?

#### **Interference with a motor vehicle.**

Between 16:30 31/12/2009 and 09:30 01/01/2010 a vehicle parked on Dunlin Avenue, Heysham was interfered with. Offender/s gained access via an insecure door and exposed wiring. Offender/s then made off undetected.

**Bus shelters damaged.** A pane of glass on a bus shelter on Middleton Road, Heysham was damaged at 19:14 on 02/01/2010. A bus shelter on Rothesay Road, Heysham was reported damaged on 04/01/2010.

**Double glazed window damaged.** Unknown offenders selected a garden ornament from a property and then threw the same at a window at a different property on the same street. The incident occurred between 22:30 and 23:00 on 04/01/2010 at Brooklands Drive, Heysham.

**Theft from vehicle.** Insecure ladders were taken from a vehicle on Middleton Road, Heysham, between 17:00 03/01/2010 and 09:00 04/01/2010.

**Public Toilets damaged.** The public toilets in Heysham Village were damaged between 14:00 08/01/2010 and 07:30 09/01/2010. CSI attended the scene. Damage is estimated at £1000+

**Damage to door.** A lock on a door at a property on St. Jame's Court, Heysham was damaged between 07:30 and 15:30 on 15/01/2010



**Vehicle damage.** A vehicle parked on Sycamore Gardens has been damaged on two separate occasions. The first incident occurred between 20:00 19/01/2010 and 12:00 on 20/01/2010. The second occurrence was between 20:00 20/01/2010 and 11:00 21/01/2010.

**Attempted burglary.** The Youth and Community Centre, Middleton Way, Heysham was targetted by offender/s between 21:30 20/01/2010 and 07:00 21/01/2010. Access was gained by scaling the fence and accessing the roof. By moving slates the loft space was exposed and the loft hatch opened to access the nursery. At some stage the alarm was activated. The offender/s exited the building via their entry route. There is no evidence of anything being taken and CSI evidence recovered at the scene has been preserved.

**Domestic burglary.** Offender/s gained access via the rear door of a property on Delamere Avenue between 02:00 23/01/2010 and 03:45 23/01/2010. Vehicle keys were taken.

**Vehicle window broken.** The window on a vehicle, parked on Banks Crescent, was damaged by unknown means between 18:15 23/01/2010 and 19:15 23/01/2010.

**Vehicle damage.** The front windscreen of a vehicle, parked on St. Jame's Court, was damaged between 11:50 23/01/2010 and 12:30 23/01/2010.

**Vehicle damage.** Damage to tyres, lock and surrounding bodywork was caused to a vehicle parked on Burford Drive. The incident occurred between 23:30 23/01/2010 and 05:40 24/01/2010.

### **On our patch with our PCSO's**

**Linda Willis** held a community engagement meeting in the Memorial Hall, Overton on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Poor turn out due to inclement weather.

Linda attended the Overton Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Vehicles parked on the junction of Middleton Rd and Lancaster road are causing a visibility problem – especially on school days. Linda will continue to monitor the situation and seek a remedy with the County Council if required.

Vehicle parking on School Road, Heysham, near St. Peter's School has also been monitored. Motorists found to be causing an obstruction were given appropriate advice.

### **PCSO Chris Dyson**

Chris holds a policing surgery at Heysham Library on the first Tuesday of each month. 2-3:30pm.

A private room is available. No need to book an appointment, just turn up.

## **Heysham Drug dealer jailed for heroin stash**

**A Heysham** drug dealer has been put behind bars for two years and eight months after £1,500 worth of heroin was found at his home.

The offender was arrested on January 2, 2009, following the drugs raid. Officers discovered the heroin and £3,500 in cash. He was sentenced after appearing at Burnley Crown Court, having previously pleaded guilty for possession with intent to supply Class A drugs.

Sgt Adie Knowles, Morecambe targeting team, said: The offenders sentence means another link in the drugs supply chain in the Morecambe area has been removed.

"I want to reassure residents that we are committed to taking drug dealers off our streets and any information or concerns that they have about drugs or drug dealing will be listened to and acted upon."

Anyone with information about drug dealing should contact police on 01524 63333.

## **Conman conviction**

The importance of reporting incidents of this nature.

A conman / thief / burglar was sentenced at Carlisle Crown Court last

month to 24 months imprisonment and given a 10 year ASBO which prevents him from carrying out work at residential properties or approaching people with a view to carrying out any property maintenance.

The offender who targets the elderly and vulnerable, particularly in rural areas, and charges exorbitant prices for work done whilst also stealing property from them.

The offender lived in Silverdale prior to his conviction.

**REMEMBER: LOCKED – STOP – CHAIN – CHECK IF IN DOUBT – KEEP THEM OUT!!**

## **New powers introduced through the Policing and Crime Act 2009 are now in force.**

The powers are:

- confiscating alcohol from young people – by amending police powers to confiscate alcohol so that they no longer need to prove that the individual 'intended' to consume the alcohol;
- making it easier to move on groups of young people – by extending the police's ability to issue 'Directions to Leave' so that they can be issued to people aged 10-15; and

- greater power to tackle persistent underage drinkers – by introducing a new offence for under-18s of persistently possessing alcohol in a public place.

- tackling those selling alcohol to children - by changing the offence of persistently selling alcohol to under 18s from three strikes within three months to two strikes in the same period;

Also coming into effect are tough new powers for local councillors to tackle problem premises. In addition to the police and members of the public, local councillors will now also be able to call for a review to restrict or remove an alcohol retailer's licence.

### **‘Crimeline’ e-mail address helps residents pass on information on-line**

A NEW email address has been created so that residents can pass on information to police officers in confidence.

The [Crimeline@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Crimeline@lancashire.pnn.police.uk) email address will send information directly to Lancaster's target team, which focuses on drug dealing and acquisitive crimes such as burglary, theft or motor vehicle crime.

The system is a secure, confidential and easy way of reporting information to officers that could then help lead to

the reduction of crime in the Lancaster, Morecambe and Carnforth area.

Information that can be passed on via the email address includes –

- Information regarding a particular crime that has been committed, such as who committed the crime, the location of any stolen property etc.
- The name of a particular person who is committing crime on a regular basis, or who is planning to commit crime.
- The name of a person who is involved in any kind of illegal drug dealing, or when and where the drugs are being sold.
- The location of anyone wanted by the police. Information regarding any illegal dogs, such as pitbulls.
- Any general suspicious activity that you believe to be related to drugs or crime.

However, the email address is not for reporting neighbourhood issues, such as anti-social behaviour, which should be reported through the usual channels.

PC Trevor Walker, of Lancaster's targeting team, said: "Using the email address is a more efficient means of sending information directly to an officer on the target team, who knows the area and the people, who works out on the streets and who is in a position to do something immediately.

“It also appeals to a computer generation hose who are may be afraid to ring up and speak to a person to give information. I would encourage anybody to use this confidential address if they feel they have useful information regarding drugs or crime.

“It may be something as simple as an awareness of people who deal drugs on a Friday night, or a suspicion that a neighbour, who receives an unusual amount of visitors may be dealing drugs or even something more complicated such large scale drug dealing or organised crime.

“Information like this from the public is extremely important to us when tackling these problems.”

Information can also be passed on to the targeting team by calling 01524 63333.

### **Warning Regarding Foreign Lottery Scams**

This is a general warning / reminder about the various foreign lottery scams that are continuing to operate. It follows a recent incident in the Manchester area where an older lady was persuaded to send several large amounts of cash via “Western Union” payments in order to claim a lottery prize from Canada.

She received letters and telephone calls instructing her to send cash so

that the money could be released and transported to her.

“Western Union” are a legitimate money transfer organisation and they advise people to be extremely cautious if they are asked to send money to a stranger for any reason. If anyone is contacted and asked to transfer money via Western Union and they have any doubts they should call

**FREEPHONE 0800 866 866 or visit [www.ukmoneytransfer.com](http://www.ukmoneytransfer.com)**

## **Trading Standards Alert**

Trading Standards are advising residents that there are several scams and possible unfair practices hitting Lancashire at the moment:

**Chorley and Adlington-** men with strong accents are cold calling residents by telephone and pretending to be from Chorley Borough Council. They claim that the resident's house has been over-rated for council tax, that it is being dropped a band and hence a refund is due, and that the consumer needs to give the caller his or her bank details so that the refund can be given. Needless to say this is a scam, and residents should be strongly warned about these calls.

**Rossendale and South Ribble-**

there are reports of companies, one giving a Blackpool address, calling consumers and offering to claim back mis-sold payment protection insurance or bank charges. Credit card details are requested and amounts then taken from accounts. Consumers should be aware that a recent Supreme Court judgement ruled for the banks on the issue of allegedly unclear overdraft charges, hence it is more difficult to claim back banking charges. In addition such businesses should be registered as claims management companies with the Ministry of Justice, which is often not the case. Be aware that anyone giving card details over the phone may end up paying more than anticipated. There are proper free channels to investigate overcharging and mis-selling- firstly complain to the bank, and then to the Banking Ombudsman if the response is unsatisfactory.

**Rossendale and Ribble Valley-**

consumers have complained that a cold caller has phoned, said he is sorting out their computer problem when they have not reported one, and then asking for personal and financial details.

**Rossendale-** a company claiming to be based in India are cold calling residents by telephone and claiming to be collecting income tax.

Discounts are offered for agreeing to pay over the phone, and payment details are requested.

**Preston and South Ribble-**

burglar alarm salesmen have been cold calling by telephone offering free alarms to residents and discussing the crime problems in the respective districts to persuade the consumers to agree to survey visits. Be warned that while the alarms may be free, consumers sign up to expensive service agreements which may last several years and cost a total in the thousands.

**Residents are strongly advised never to give out personal bank details in response to an unsolicited call or mailing.**

Please refer any complaints to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, 55 Guildhall Street, Preston, Lancs PR1 3NU via Consumer Direct tel 08454 040506. If there is any loss of money the matter should also be referred to the police.

Warning issued by Dawn Robinson, Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service, please call 01772 532763 for further information.

Supported by local  
authority Trading  
Standards Services  
and the Office of Fair  
Trading  
**You can drop off your  
scam letters at:**

**Become a Scambuster**

Drop your scam letters in the  
Scamnesty bin between 1-26  
February 2010 and help us beat  
the scammers!

Morecambe and Heysham Citizens  
Advice Bureau  
Oban House  
87-89 Queen Street  
Morecambe  
Lancashire  
LA4 5EN

## KEEP YOURSELF

## SAFE

### What is Doorstep Crime?

**Doorstep crime** involves someone deceiving a resident into letting them into their house through seemingly legitimate means so they can steal or con possessions or money from the residents. There are two main forms:

**1. Distraction burglars** have a range of methods in order to keep residents preoccupied, one normally keeping the

resident busy, as the other sneaks into the home unseen.

**2. Bogus Callers** can be very persuasive, and convince the resident into believing there is an urgent job that needs doing on their property, charge high rates for their service and then pressure the resident to pay for it. They have even been known to go as far as driving the resident to the bank to withdraw cash.

This particular crime unfortunately is targeted at the older and more vulnerable residents with official figures reporting 19,000 doorstep crimes being committed against older people in a year. However because 51% of older people fail to report such incidents, the real number is estimated to be much higher.

### What is the Safe Project and how can it help?

The Safe project is a **partnership** between Lancashire Constabulary and Lancaster University's Volunteering Unit (LUVU), created after a Home office initiative to reduce doorstep crime. The **main aim is to decrease the likelihood of doorstep crime** occurring in the homes of local residents, making the Lancaster district safer.

Student volunteers are **trained** by the fire, police services and LUVU and are able to:

- **provide up to date information** on home safety and doorstep crime prevention,

- **assess** the resident's security requirements,
- **install** spy holes, door chains and vocal reminder devices,
- **provide** UV security property markers,
- **refer you to reliable sources** for a vast range of additional needs (fire, handyman, trading standards etc).

This all takes place in the comfort of the resident's **home**. The service and equipment is provided completely **free** of charge and is **strictly confidential**

## How to sign up...

Contact: **01524 593693** or  
[luvu@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:luvu@lancaster.ac.uk)

Lancaster University  
Volunteering Unit (LUVU)

Alexandra Square,

Lancaster University,

Lancaster

LA1 4XX

February's Heysham South PACT meeting was held at the Youth & Community Centre, Douglas Park on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010.

Next PACT meeting: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Venue: Youth & Community Centre, Douglas Park.

Date	This month's priority	Update on last month's Priority
01/02/10	No priorities were set for the Month of February.  The Neighbourhood Policing Team will be vigilant in all areas.	There was no PACT priority for January.  The Neighbourhood Policing Team increased their visible patrols in all areas during the month and kept crime to a minimum.

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

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.