

Alcester - Bidford on Avon - Welford on Avon - Kinwarton - Aston Cantlow - Temple & Ardens Grafton - Salford Priors - Great & Little Alne - Wilmcote - Haselor - Dunnington - Billseley - Weethley - Rushford

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

Incidents recorded on the Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team area for March 2014:

<i>Incident Type</i>		<i>February 2014</i>	<i>March 2014</i>
Anti Social Behaviour (Persons and Vehicles)		19	32
Burglary Dwelling (Houses)		3	9
Burglary Other (Out buildings)		1	7
Criminal Damage		5	6
Theft from Motor Vehicle		12	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle		3	0
Violence		1	11
Theft (general theft and shoplifting)		16	17

* Figures correct as of the 1st April 2014. DETAILS ARE TAKEN FROM THE POLICE COMPUTER AND SHOW HOW THE INCIDENTS WERE CLASSIFIED WHEN THE ORIGINAL CALL WAS RECEIVED. AFTER INVESTIGATION THE RESULT MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT AND WILL NOT BE REFLECTED ABOVE.

CRIME IN OUR AREA

BURGLARY

- We have had 9 dwellings broken into during March. Alcester x 5, Braggington x 1, Dunnington x 1, Great Alne x 1 and Haselor x 1. Nearly all incidents relate to properties being attacked from the rear and in the cases in Alcester the locks in the doors have been broken, while the occupants were still in the house.
- We had 7 burglaries of buildings other than dwellings reported to us. Alcester x 3, Clifford Chambers x 1, Wilmcote x 1, Dunnington x 1 and Aston Cantlow x 1. Sheds, outbuildings, stables and barns are all vulnerable to this type of crime.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

- We had 6 instances of damage reported to us. 2 in Alcester, 1 in Bishopston and 3 in Bidford. As in most cases of damage they are caused by people acting randomly while passing through an area.

THEFTS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

- Just 1 crime reported to us in March relating to items being stolen from a vehicle. This occurred in the public car park of Oversley Woods.
- It only takes seconds for a passing criminal to spot something worth stealing, smash the window and make a get away. Keep valuables out of sight and secure.

THEFT

- 5 of the instances of theft reported to us relate to shoplifting. 3 in Waitrose, Alcester and 2 in Budgens, Bidford. Alcohol, meat and toiletries still prove to be very popular with those committing offences.
- The other 12 offences relate to items being stolen from gardens and other public and private areas. The breakdown is - Alcester x 5, Welford x 1, Abbots Salford x 2, Dodwell x 1, Binton x 1, Dunnington x 1 and Salford Priors x 1. CCTV, lighting and good security will deter most thieves.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (PERSONS AND VEHICLES)

- Warmer weather and lighter nights are often a pre-cursor to an increase in rowdy behaviour. 4 of the incidents reported to us relate to vehicles being used in an anti social behaviour, especially Mini motorbikes, scramblers and mopeds.
- The other 28 incidents of rowdy behaviour relate to persons. The breakdown is - Alcester x 15, Welford x 1, Bidford x 8, Broom x 1, Weethley x 1, Great Alne x 1 and Pathlow x 1.

VIOLENCE

- We had 11 reports of 'violence' reported to us during March. 2 in Bidford, 7 in Alcester, 1 in Broom and 1 in Weethley. As previously stated acts of violence are often alcohol or domestic related.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- During March we had 28 calls reporting suspicious activity. We thank all our community members that have called in to report suspicious persons or vehicles.
- It is important that if you consider something suspicious is occurring you contact us straight away. This gives us a better chance of stopping and checking those involved, which in turn prevents crime. The non emergency number of 101 is recommended in cases like this.
- If you do ring, the better the description of the people or the vehicles involved the better chance we have to either track them down or to match them with similar incidents reported.



CONTACTING US:

Alcester Police Mobile - 07979704373 Only switched on when officers are on duty
Bidford Police Mobile - 07823533488 Only switched on when officers are on duty.

Alcester Police Station - 01789 762207
Alcester SNT Voicemail - 01789 444816
Reporting non urgent incidents - 101



Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant - Sgt Bob Shaw -
Robert.shaw@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Safer Neighbourhood Officer - PC Peter Essex - peter.essex@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Andy Hyman - Andrew.hyman@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Rebecca Morris - Rebecca.morris@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Warwickshire Police would like to offer the following advice to help the public protect themselves against vehicle crime.



Doors and Windows

Always make sure that doors are locked, and windows and sun-roofs are shut when leaving the vehicle.

Keep your valuables and possessions safe and out of sight

Do not leave **any** belongings on display, even items of low or little monetary value.

- **Coats and Clothing**

These are frequently left on view in the back seat of cars. They are popular with thieves, not only for their resale value, but because the pockets may contain valuable items such as money or keys.

- **Electronic Items and Jewellery**

A potential treasure trove awaits a car criminal who sees items such as cameras, video cameras, watches and even jewellery left on view inside a car. A smashed window, a few seconds and they are away with your property. Always take your property with you

- **Laptop Computers**

Never leave your laptop in your car. These have a high resale value for car criminals who will be more than happy to steal them if they are left on view.

- **Car Stereos/iPods**

Car stereos are easily removed from cars and can be sold on quickly. Always take the detachable control panel with you when you leave your vehicle. If there is a PIN security code number with the audio equipment ensure it has been activated. Never keep the PIN with the stereo or with the user manual in the car and make a note of

the stereo serial number.

The use of iPods in cars, as an alternative to car stereos, has greatly increased. Always remember to remove both iPod and cradle when leaving the car.

- **CDs**

CDs left on view in a vehicle are music to car criminal's ears who will steal them to sell on. Never have large numbers of CDs in your vehicle and always keep them out of sight.

Wallets, Purses and Credit Cards

These are attractive to car thieves as they are the gateway to untold riches. Always take your money / wallet / purse with you, do not hide inside the car. The first two places a car thief will look on breaking into a car are within the glove box or under the seat.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones have a high resale value for the car criminal; they are easy to carry and sell on. If stolen it means inconvenience for the owner as the loss of business and personal contact numbers means no one will be able to contact you. It may also take time to replace your phone and re-establish the contacts.

Car Keys

Keep your car keys safe at all times – **Always** remove keys from the ignition and lock all doors when leaving the vehicle. It only takes a thief a few seconds to jump into your car and drive away.

At home, keep your car keys in a safe place which is out of sight and away from windows and doors.

Security Devices

Many newer cars will already be fitted with an immobiliser and/or car alarm, if not consider having one professionally fitted. Car alarms should conform to the BS 6803 standard.

Electronic immobilisers, which prevent the car from starting, or mechanical immobilisers such as steering wheel locks, will also deter car thieves. Steering wheel locks are in-expensive and available from most car accessories stores.

To prevent tyre theft fit wheel nuts, they are inexpensive and easy to install.

Security Marking

Consider marking all your valuables with a unique identification number such as your postcode. Also consider having your car's registration number or the last 7 digits of your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etched onto all glass surfaces, including headlamps. These numbers can be linked to recognised security databases. Also, make a note of the car's chassis number.

Parking

When parking in public streets and roads leave your car where it can be seen by others, not out of sight. Look for a car park that is well supervised. At night, avoid parking in areas with little or no lighting. Remember to tuck in wing mirrors and put the aerial down to discourage vandalism.

If you have a garage try to park your car in it overnight. If you have a private driveway parking your car on it regularly, instead of a public road may reduce your car insurance premiums.

Car-jacking

Help prevent yourself being a victim of car-jacking by:

- keeping your doors locked whilst driving and trying to keep windows wound up, especially at traffic lights.
- being aware of what people around you are doing.
- not stopping to assist someone who has broken down. If you want to help, pull over at the next garage or police station and call for help.
- driving to the next garage or police station to report anyone who tries to pull you over for apparently no reason. Even if they prove to have a valid reason, it's best to be cautious.
- not driving home if another car appears to be following you. Memorise the registration number, write down when safe to do so and drive to a police station or area where people are present.
- not getting out of your car if you suspect a car-jacker has **accidentally** bumped into you and it is not a genuine accident. Car-jackers will sometimes adopt this tactic to get you out of your vehicle so they can steal it. If this happens wind the window down a little to talk to them. If they are genuine, insurance details etc can be exchanged in this manner.

Sat Navs

- Mark your Sat Nav with your car's registration number to make it harder to sell if stolen.
- Never programme your home address into the device under the title "home" as a thief will be able to locate where you live. If your car is in town, they may assume that your home is likely to be empty.
- Never leave your Sat Nav equipment in the car, always take it with you.
- Make sure the Sat Nav cradle is removed from the windscreen and keep a cloth in the vehicle to wipe away any suction mark left on the glass. Thieves may see this mark as an indication that there is a Sat Nav hidden within the car.
- Make a note of the serial number and keep the information in a safe place in case the device is stolen.
- Security mark each part of your Sat Nav with SmartWater or an ultra violet marker. If stolen, using either of these marking systems will help the police re-unioned you with your property if recovered.

Theft of car number plates and catalytic converters

Number plates are generally stolen in order to be used on vehicles involved in other criminal activity. You can prevent this by having anti-theft number plates fitted that shatter when anyone tampers with them, or fitting self locking screws. In order to reduce the risk of catalytic converters being stolen always park in busy, well lit car parks, or in areas with security coverage that includes CCTV.

Tradesmen - Power tools and other work equipment

Never ever leave tools in your van overnight. Always remove, put them in a secure area and place a notice or sticker in the van window stating that all tools have been removed. If stolen you will not only have the expense and frustration of having to source and replace specialist equipment but could lose valuable work if you don't have the tools to do the job.

In situations where emptying your van is not possible, fit a battery powered alarm. These can be easily installed into the back of a van, are remotely set and release an audible siren which activates as soon as the vehicle is entered. No potential thief will want to hang about to be seen.

The above items belong to you, you've worked hard to afford them. Help protect yourself, vehicle and belongings from car thieves.
If you are a victim of car crime report it to the police.