

Dales Police Report – March 2019

The following incidents of note have occurred in the Dales area this month –

The John Deere farm utility vehicle stolen from Lunds above Hawes on 11th February was recovered hidden in woodland at Langstrothdale in upper Wharfedale a few days after the theft.

On the evening of 25th February a Honda quad bike was stolen from a farm in Raydale. About 11:30pm that evening members of the Upper Dales Volunteer Rural Watch reported seeing a quad without lights, in company with a Ford Focus car, being ridden through Bainbridge towards Worton. Police patrols, which were already in the area, helped to make a search for the vehicles. However, the vehicles appear to have gone to ground. The quad was next spotted and pursued by police in Wharfedale until it was lost heading into West Yorkshire.

Between about 10:00 and 11:00pm on 28th February J.T. Atkinsons Builders Merchants on Hawes Business Park was broken into. CCTV shows two suspect males breaking through outer fencing and then knocking a hole through the outer wall of the warehouse, before entering and stealing a large amount of copper piping from within. They made off in a hatchback car. Any information please on 101.

In the early hours of 4th March an outbuilding at a farm in Bishopdale was entered and two Honda quad bikes were stolen. The quads were later seen being ridden in lower Wharfedale. One was pursued by police lost in West Yorkshire. The other was found abandoned in Addingham. A silver Ford Mondeo was believed linked to the theft.

On the afternoon of 8th March a group of suspected shoplifters were reported to be active around a number of shops in Leyburn. Thefts of alcohol were reported by the COOP and Campbells supermarkets, while sunglasses were reported stolen from the opticians on the High Street. With vital assistance and reports from quick thinking staff and members of the public, two men were soon arrested on the outskirts of town. Two males from the Doncaster area have since been charged with a number of theft offences. Well done Team Leyburn!

At lunchtime on 11th March a further 3 shoplifters from Sunderland were arrested and their car seized following a spate of alcohol thefts from Richmondshire COOPs, including Leyburn.

Although the Dales remain a low crime area, incidents such as the quad thefts remind us of the need to take a look at our own property security. Consideration could be given to CCTV, security warning signage, fitting quality locks and locking posts, alarms, 'tracker' systems, and property marking.

We have stepped up marked and unmarked patrols. As ever we rely on your eyes and ears. If something looks out of place please call it in. Receive crime updates by registering with community messaging – northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.org

PC558 Julian Sutcliffe