Dales Police Report June 2019

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

On 15th May a handbag was stolen from an unattended car on Middleham Road at Leyburn. Quick actions by staff at the nearby garage and a flurry of activity on social media led to the suspect being arrested later that day on Leyburn Market Place. The detained male has since been charged and bailed to appear at York Magistrates Court.

Overnight on the 20th May a Chausson motor home was stolen from a driveway at West Witton. It was recovered by police a week later in the Rotherham area of South Yorkshire.

A 'Coachman Laser' 24-27 ft twin axle caravan was stolen during the day from Finghall on 22nd May. Any information regarding these investigations to police on 101 please.

In terms of caravan security we suggest considering deterrents such as CCTV around your property; also think about hitch locks, wheel clamps, security bollards and tracker systems. Take a look at your property as though through the eyes of a thief – how easy would it be to steal your caravan? Caravans and motorhomes are high value and desirable targets and it may be that thieves plan these thefts ahead, therefore, we ask that people stay vigilant and do not hesitate to call '101' should they see anything or anyone they feel is out of place or doesn't feel right.

On 28th May a police wildlife crime officer recovered a dead barn owl chick from a rail trap in Swaledale. The traps are intended for control of ‘vermin’ such as rats, stoats and weasels. The user of the trap was using it lawfully and this appears to have been something of a freak accident. If you come across a trap that you think doesn’t look right, please don’t touch it, but make a note of the location, photograph it if possible and report it on 101. A local wildlife crime officer will then attend and check it.

In the early hours of 5th June the free standing ATM on Hawes Market Place was attacked and damaged. The local Fire and Rescue service were called to put out a small fire within it. The motive is unclear but other ATMs across the region have been attacked in attempts to steal cash. Any information please on 101.

The usual movement of members of the traveller community towards Appleby Horse Fair has taken place. This went largely well, but a small minority caused a number of anti social behaviour issues, particularly at Bainbridge and Hawes. Police will meet with local agencies to discuss this year’s incidents.

Finally, our local police team have attended a number of road traffic collisions in the dales already this summer. Please don’t become a statistic. Expect the unexpected around the next bend and drive accordingly.

Thank you

PC Julian Sutcliffe

Dales Neighbourhood Police Team