

Dales Police Report Oct 2019 Issue

I start by saying how sorry I was that the route for the final big day of the UCI World Cycling Championships was diverted away from Upper Wensleydale and Swaledale due to the terrible weather conditions. The right decision in the circumstances, but hugely disappointing for everyone who had invested time, effort and money into supporting the event in our area. Hopefully we have had our share of bad luck for this year now!

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

Overnight on 26th September padlocks on an outbuilding at Arkengarthdale Road, Reeth were cut off and entry gained. Nothing appears to have been stolen but it is a warning to all to check the security of garden sheds and garages.

Around the 3rd October thieves entered the Leyburn Recycling Depot and stole about 40 scrap car batteries. On a wider note please do not leave scrap items on display around your homes or businesses as it will attract unwanted visitors. Scrap collectors require licences to collect waste. These are issued by the local authority in which they are collecting (Richmondshire District Council). If you believe one is operating without such a licence please call the police at the time on 101 with vehicle registration details.

We continue to take reports of moorland traps being interfered with and damaged, the latest being on the moors above Askrigg. These particular vermin control spring traps were compliant with the relevant legislation and lawful. If you come across a trap that you believe is unlawful or has trapped a non target species (ie not a stoat or rat) please take a photo, note the location and inform the police on 101. Please do not touch the trap. One of our team of Wildlife Crime Officers (which includes me) will check out the trap and report back to you. (For obtaining locations to the nearest square metre please download the 'what3words' app to your phone. This is now being used by all emergency services as a location finding tool)

September also saw the disappearance of two satellite tagged hen harriers in Wensleydale. One last transmitted above Thornton Rust whilst the other gave it's last signal above Askrigg. Area searches have been carried out by Wildlife Crime Officers with the help of staff from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Ranger Service, to no avail. We keep an open mind regarding their fate. Please contact the police with any information, particularly if you come across the birds whilst out walking.

Finally, although we have had little crime this month in the Dales, we have had a number of reports of suspicious vehicles at all times of day and night. Please continue to ring in such sightings to give patrol officers the chance to be in the right place at the right time to deter and detect crime.

Julian Sutcliffe PC558

Dales Neighbourhood Police Team