

Dales Police Report - December 2020

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

Overnight 16th to 17th November a plant storage yard near Appersett was broken into through secure fencing. Once inside the offenders broke into a cabin and storage container. Nothing was believed stolen. On the same night a unit on the Upper Wensleydale Business Park was broken into by the external aluminium sheeting being peeled back. Not gaining entry by this method, the offenders then forced up the roller shutter door. Again nothing was stolen. Three individuals from the Durham area have since been arrested and are currently under investigation.

On the afternoon of 17th November staff at Leyburn Co-op noticed a suspected shoplifter in the store with a quantity of alcohol. When challenged he made off without the stolen goods, then driving off at speed in a nearby vehicle, almost running over a member of police staff in the process. Later enquiries led to a male and female from the Cleveland area being arrested. Charges have since been brought against the male for three counts of shoplifting and assaulting an emergency worker. Good job by shop staff keeping vigilant and quickly calling the police.

On the evening of 24th November a white Ford Transit van attached to a trailer bearing a mini-digger was reported abandoned on Hargill Road at Askrigg. On police arrival it was soon apparent that the van was on false number plates and the mini-digger likely stolen. Enquires with Durham Police linked a further suspect vehicle possible associated with the abandoned van. Police cameras soon located this vehicle on the move in the Dales, and it was intercepted at Catterick by traffic officers. The 3 occupants, from the Cleveland area, were all arrested on suspicion of theft. The mini-digger was later found to have been stolen from a storage yard near Appersett. A further male handed himself into police the following week. The investigation is continuing. Anyone with any information please contact 101 quoting reference 12200208670. Thank you to members of the Upper Wensleydale Watch who turned out to assist on the night.

Overnight 8th to 9th December a cattle trailer was stolen from a field at Preston Under Scar. It was located abandoned a few miles away on the road near Aysgarth the next morning.

As ever, although crime is down this year in Richmondshire, we must not be complacent. Have a look at you own possessions and check how easy they would be to steal. Consider CCTV, motion sensor lights, alarms and strong padlocks. Also, if you see something suspicious please call it in to police at the time.

As ever - wash your hands regularly, keep socially distant and wear a mask.

PC 558 Julian Sutcliffe Northern Dales Neighbourhood Police Team