

April 2012



Produced by Crown Watch in support and with the assistance of Kenilworth's Safer Neighbourhood Team and endorsed by the Kenilworth Community Forum



In this months **Kenilworth Update**:

- BMW Owners - Warning of Thefts
- Why Speed IS important to all of us
- Smartwater Progress - have you got yours yet?

Robberies - Can you help?

Police investigating a series of robberies in the Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth areas are appealing for information from the public to help them identify the offenders and bring them to justice.

The robberies occurred between Friday March 9 and Friday March 16, usually between 10pm and 2am, and involved a group of between two and five offenders wearing dark clothing and coverings over their faces.

No one was seriously injured in any of the incidents, which occurred in locations including Montague Walk, Warwick; Tachbrook Street area and the Pump Room Gardens, Leamington; York Passage, Leamington; and Abbey Fields, Kenilworth.

Three men were arrested in connection with the incidents on Monday, March 19, following the execution of a warrant in Brunswick Street, Leamington and a further two men were arrested on Tuesday March 20. All five have been released on bail pending further inquiries.

A number of items, including mobile phones and iPods, have been recovered and officers investigating the offences would like to hear from anyone who has witnessed or been involved in an offence and/or can help identify the property.*

Anyone with information is asked to contact DS Paul Whitehurst in Local Investigations Leamington Spa 01926 451111. Information can also be given anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

* see item on page 2 - **Get Smartwater and make your property identifiable!**

Kenilworth's **Community Forum** endorses **Kenilworth Update**.

We are pleased to learn that coverage of this Kenilworth Update is growing and getting to more people across the community. Recently arrangements were made to ensure that all members of Kenilworth Town Council receive Kenilworth Update along with all those on the Kenilworth SNT email list.

Do you know someone who would benefit from receiving Kenilworth Update? If so so tell us by dropping us a line at crownwatch@me.com or by telephoning your Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01926 684404



Keep one step ahead... be the first to know the latest, it's **free and easy!**

Crown Watch provide the latest news available from Warwickshire Police concerning crime in Kenilworth. By signing up to the automatic alerts you get as much warning as possible about what is going on and what steps you might need to take by an immediate email, this enables smartphone owners to access the news too. Don't be put off by the phrase **signing up** (there is no charge, catch or advertising). Simply provide your email address and that's it! - from then on any update on our website, which we manage 24 hours a day, will be with you in a minute.

The new number to contact **POLICE** for non emergencies

101

The new non emergency number is now in use for you to contact your police service. Call 101 for:

- *reporting a crime that has happened*
- *providing information about a crime*
- *asking for information or advice*

The number for **Emergencies** remains

999

Dial this number where there is danger to life or property or a crime is being committed



BMW Drivers Warned of Thefts

Please be aware that since January 2012, 154 BMW vehicles have been stolen from across the Midlands Region. Thieves are targeting vehicles built between 2006 and 2011 and are stealing them without the keys, in all 154 cases reported the owners still have all the keys in their possession. Thieves are targeting vehicles on driveways and in large car parks and wait for

drivers to park and leave their vehicle. Once the driver presses the key to lock the vehicle a frequency blocker intercepts the signal causing the vehicle to remain open. The thief then enters the vehicle when the coast is clear and uses a device on the vehicle which programs a blank key. The key is then used by the offender to drive the vehicle away. If the frequency blocker is unsuccessful, the thief will often smash a front side window of the vehicle to get in. Four of the vehicles have been stolen from addresses in Warwickshire already and it may well be that the thieves are spreading their wings and Warwickshire residents will be targeted more often from now on.

Our advice to all BMW drivers is simple. Please try the door handle after using your key to lock the vehicle and double check that it is **actually locked**. Please also have a good look around when leaving the vehicle to see if you can spot anyone waiting nearby or in a vehicle in the vicinity, especially if you check and find the door to still be open. If this is the case, then without risk to yourself and as discreetly as possible, report anything suspicious to Police on 999 as they are very keen to catch these offenders.

If you see anything suspicious call the Police on 999

Over 25 Smartwater orders delivered to Kenilworth Residents!

We have delivered over 25 orders for Smartwater to Kenilworth residents for Smartwater kits after our last Update. This is great news but there are still thousands of homes in our town that currently do not deter crime. We would like to see many more residents consider Smartwater and purchase a kit for their home. Simply, the more homes we can get covered by Smartwater the more UNATTRACTIVE Kenilworth becomes generally as a destination for criminals, particularly burglars and offenders who commit opportunist acts of theft.

Have YOU ordered your Smartwater kit for the bargain price of £15, usually more than £50. Through Neighbourhood Watch you can obtain this product which is recommended by Warwickshire Police and Home Office.

Help us deter crime and protect your property at the same time, order your Smartwater NOW!

You can get your Smartwater by contacting Crown Watch at crownwatch@me.com or by speaking to the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01926 684404. Don't put it off or think crime can't happen to you, if we all do this small thing it will help make a big difference to our town and place it off the visiting list of potential criminals.



DON'T DELAY... GET YOUR SMARTWATER NOW

email us at crownwatch@me.com

Do you know...

- Speeding is a contributory factor in at least 24% of collisions that result in fatalities.
- National research has shown that speeding is common with 50% of all drivers admitting to exceeding the 30mph limit in urban areas.
- Every 1mph reduction in average speed reduces the number of collisions by 5%.
- An average family car travelling at 35mph will need an extra 21 feet (6.4 metres) to stop than one travelling at 30mph.
- Every year inappropriate speed kills or injures over 100,000 people.



Spring sunrise, Abbey Fields, Kenilworth

26 March 2012



Community Speed Watch - Helping to keep Kenilworth Safe



The problem of speeding vehicles in our streets is one of the top concerns of local residents, and is the focus of priority action by community volunteers working in conjunction with Warwickshire Police, under the auspices of the Kenilworth Community Forum. The Kenilworth Community Speedwatch scheme was launched in May 2009, the first such scheme in Warwickshire. The scheme consists currently of six civilian volunteers, operating at eighteen locations spread across Kenilworth and Burton Green.



John Whitehouse using the Speedwatch camera.

All speed monitoring sites are risk-assessed by the Police for our use, and not all locations are suitable. We keep the list of sites under review, and occasionally add new sites in substitution for others. Each volunteer receives full training by the Police, and is covered by Police insurance. They use standard police speed monitoring equipment, exactly the same as the Police use for speed enforcement work.

Two sites are usually covered during each two-hour stint. Volunteers work in pairs, and use clear roadside warning signs to advise drivers approaching from both directions of our presence. Laser speed guns are used to measure vehicle speeds either coming towards or going away from the volunteers, in a clear and visible working range of several hundred metres.

Do you want to help and be part of Speedwatch?

The commitment requested from each community volunteer is for two 2-hour sessions in a 4-week period. New volunteers are always welcomed, so if you would like to help to keep our streets safe please get in contact with the Kenilworth Community Speedwatch co-ordinator Cllr John Whitehouse, whose contact details are:

Address: 47 Sunningdale Avenue, Kenilworth, CV8 2BY
 Phone: 01926 512130
 Email: johnwhitehouse@warwickshire.gov.uk

Any vehicles measured at speeds at or above the ACPD (Association of Chief Police Officers) recommended threshold, which is 35 mph in a 30 zone or 46 mph in a 40 zone, have their registration number and other vehicle and driver details recorded. At the end of each session these are passed to the Police, who follow up with warning letters to the registered owners of the vehicles, plus other follow-up action where required.

Experience of Speedwatch is that their presence at the roadside makes a significant difference to driver behaviour, helping to reduce vehicle speeds and making our roads safer. Where they record large numbers of speeding vehicles, it provides powerful evidence for the Police about the extent of a speeding problem at a specific location, and can lead to follow-up speed enforcement action by them.

In 2010, the latest available national report, **Either exceeding the speed limit or travelling too fast for the conditions** was reported in 12 per cent of all accidents and these accidents accounted for **24 per cent of all fatalities**.

Source: Department for Transport

The reaction of the public to Speedwatch is overwhelmingly positive. Pedestrians, cyclists and even drivers stop to thank us for what we are doing. There are a few adverse reactions, including the odd rude gesture, but generally little to be concerned about.



Kenilworth Castle Sunset, 25 March 2012

Taking From Motor Vehicles (TFMV)

Sometime between 22 and 23 March offenders unknown entered an insecure Mercedes Benz car in Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth and stole cash that had been left in the central console area.

This latest event further highlights the need to completely remove items of value from motor vehicles and also ensure that vehicles are fully secure before being left unattended, including on home drives.



Sunset Oak, Kenilworth 25 March 2012

3 Priorities for Kenilworth's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) were agreed by Kenilworth Community Forum on 19 March 2012

1. Following two road traffic collisions and complaints from members of the public the SNT will now provide a minimum of 10 dedicated patrols of Beehive Hill near to the nursery. These patrols will tackle things like dangerously parked vehicles in the morning and afternoon.
2. In support of the recent efforts to tackle graffiti in the town the SNT will provide a minimum of 10 dedicated patrols of the alleyways around the town centre which have been subjected to graffiti menace previously.
3. Anti Social behaviour, especially in view of the lighter nights, will be addressed by the SNT team who will provide a minimum of 15 dedicated patrols at the Anti Social Behaviour hotspots of Abbey Fields and Castle Farm.

The term "minimum" applies to the period between each Kenilworth Community Forum where progress on the Priorities is reported by the SNT and reviewed by the Forum who then reset or set new Priorities for the next period.

Please be aware that the term minimum is just that, wherever possible the SNT will seek to exceed the minimum levels set by the Community Forum.

HORSE FAIR - A452 THICKTHORN Friday 27, 28 and 29 April 2012

On these dates the Horse Fair will be taking place near to Thickthorn Island (A452). The SNT will be on duty over this period and some traffic disruption may result at busy times with Sunday being the main day of the fair and thus likely to be the busiest. If at all possible drivers are advised to use alternative routes.

Chief Constable Spends a Morning with SNT

The recent good work by Kenilworth SNT was recognised on 15 March when Andy Parker, Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police chose to join the SNT for a tour of duty around the town and district. He spent a full morning with the team, meeting and greeting members of the public at the Thursday SNT surgery at Abbey End Market and also undertaking foot patrol around the town centre.

Beat Manager PC Pete King said 'It was great to see the Chief Constable and that he spent so much time engaging with the SNT and Kenilworth residents. He was able to see the work we are doing with the community and talk to them about it.'

Plain Clothes work by SNT pays off for local traders

Some recent work by the SNT whilst in plain clothes has been successful in disrupting and preventing a bulk theft of groceries by shoplifting. 3 people were identified and subsequently stopped and searched. As a result the items destined to be stolen were ultimately not taken. A banning notice has been issued to the individuals concerned with a clear message that this type of criminal activity will not be tolerated in Kenilworth.



NEIGHBOURHOOD
NEWS

Birmingham Road
A452

Where 30 MPH Starts and Applies

Coventry Road
A429



Beehive Hill



Kenilworth



Rouncil Lane



Dalehouse Lane



Warwick Road



Leamington Road
A452

Meet Kenilworth's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

You can meet members of Kenilworth's SNT.

It's easy, they attend Kenilworth Market at Abbey End each Thursday. And most Saturdays they are either in Waitrose or Sainsbury's car park between 10 and 11.30am

Contact Details for Kenilworth SNT:

Telephone 01926 684404

email; kenilworth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

If it sounds too good to be true... then it probably is!

On Thursday 22nd March Kenilworth Beat Manager, PC Pete King, arranged for Trading Standards to attend the Senior Citizens Club at Jubilee House. This gave those present valuable advice on tackling rogue trader issues, an online buying guide and information on current scams and hoaxes taking place.

Those present at the meeting were asked to spread the word and inform neighbours and friends.

ARREST

On Wednesday 21 March, whilst on patrol in the town, members of the Kenilworth SNT team were made aware of a suspicious male.

This subsequently led to the arrest of a prolific and violent shoplifter in a clothing shop on Warwick Road, Kenilworth.

The male was subsequently charged with theft and was remanded in police custody until the next available court session.



Junior Neighbourhood Watch expands in Kenilworth

Following the excellent response and results from developing and establishing a Junior Neighbourhood Watch at Burton Green Primary School, Beat Manager, PC Pete King, has told us that plans are now being actioned that will see the scheme expand and move into other schools. Clinton Primary is due to be the next school that is planned to become involved in developing and running a Junior Neighbourhood Watch scheme.