

POLICE REPORT

LOCALLY Christmas and the New Year passed off fairly peacefully. The exceptions being two house burglaries on Christmas Day – one in Burford and one at Fulbrook. The offence at Fulbrook culminated in the theft of a white van from the drive. This was after the offenders had walked unseen into the hallway and removed the vehicle keys from a table. The van was recovered and a person arrested a week later.

Looking forward to 2002, the new CCTV cameras around Witney town centre are fully up and running. I'm sure they will be of great benefit to all. Similar cameras installed at Cirencester cut their car park crime to virtually nil. The cameras are also useful in combating unsocial behaviour and disorder problems around the town.

A period of change is on the horizon for the Police Service as well. The Police Federation and Government continue with negotiations over our pay and conditions. No-one seems to be quite sure where it will all end.

Thames Valley Police have announced who the new Chief Constable is to be. Mr. Peter Neyroud joins the Force shortly from his current post as Deputy Chief Constable of West Mercia. Mr. Neyroud is 42 years old and married with four children.

Finally a couple of quotes from the Courts which were recently included in the Christmas issue of the 'Police Magazine'.

Q. - "What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up this morning?"

A. "He said "Where am I Cathy?""

Q. "And why did that upset you?"

A. "My name is Susan."

Q. "How old is your son, the one living with you?"

A. "38 or 35, I can't remember which"

Q. "How long has he lived with you?"

A. "45 years."

Warning to Small Businesses.

Some of you may be aware that there are a number of instances of small businesses being approached by companies trying to sell space on various publications in support of charities or worthy causes. Whereas these may well be legitimate businesses, the methods used in many cases include very aggressive and intimidating communications. The general process is to try and obtain a verbal contract via a telephone conversation and then to aggressively chase payment backed up with threats of court action claiming that the verbal contract has been recorded.

The Trading Standards Office will advise that verifiable verbal contracts can stand up in court. Although the option of changing your mind is offered this needs to be exercised within a very short period of time and can prove difficult. Businesses should therefore be very wary of committing themselves to this sort of thing over the telephone and should insist on seeing written details of any offer up front, including full terms and conditions - or simply say no.

There are a lot of companies trying to take your money and who have no hesitation in using sharp practices to do so - please be aware and if in any doubt, do not get involved.

Pc Ray Hamilton.

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