

NEWS

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Warning from police over shed break-ins

by Laura Nightingale

POLICE officers are advising rural businesses to secure their outdoor equipment to reduce their risk of becoming a target to thieves.

Hampshire Constabulary said theft in rural communities had a 'debilitating effect' on farms and businesses and have provided tips in the lead up to the autumn season - historically a time when this type of crime increases.

A spokesman for Hampshire Constabulary said: "Many people take a great deal of trouble securing their home and property while at the same time leaving valuable equipment in a shed or barn that is either unlocked or not maintained.

"Items stored in external

premises are often expensive to replace and can also be an open invitation for thieves to use accessible equipment to break into your home or car."

In order to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of crime, the police suggest tools and garden equipment to be locked in sheds, barns and garages. More expensive items should be secured to an anchor point within the shed, barn or garage and items should be marked with a postcode and recorded."

Fitting an alarm, covering windows with curtains to obscure the view of contents and fitting external lighting are all preventative measures that should be considered.

The police also suggested owners take photographs of items if they are unusual or unique for

easy identification at a later date and to ensure fences and boundaries are in good repair to prevent unlawful access.

Police said in the northern area of the county, which includes Hart and Rushmoor, non-dwelling burglaries and theft offences accounted for 50% - 1,235 offences - of total crime reported in rural spots. This compared to 31% - 2,370 offences - in urban areas.

Of the 1,235 offences recorded in rural patches between July 1, 2012, and October 31, 2012, there were 356 non-dwelling burglaries, 45 thefts of motor vehicles, 183 thefts from motor vehicles and 651 'other' thefts and handling.

A leaflet containing further country watch advice can be obtained by visiting www.hampshire.police.uk.

Vintage idea offers comfort at shop

A VINTAGE corner of a family business in Ash Vale has been decorated to celebrate the shop bringing in items that hark back to the early days of its existence.

Vale Furnishers has begun stocking a G Plan Vintage range of furniture which is similar to that which the grandparents of managing director Mark Chandler sold when they first opened the shop in 1960.

The Fifties and Sixties inspired ranges have items named after the year in which the original models were created.

One armchair in the range is based on the 'World's Most Comfortable Chair' that featured in the 1967 James Bond film *You Only Live Twice*, sat on by villain Blofeld with his white cat.

"G Plan were one of the first manufacturers that my

grandparents stocked when they opened Vale Furnishers in 1960," said Mr Chandler. "It is exciting to now be able to offer the new G Plan Vintage range which is inspired by the original pieces my family sold."

An area of the ground floor has been dedicated to pieces that share vintage influences to create a more dramatic visual effect for customers.



Manager Mark Chandler at Vale Furnishers in Ash Vale, in the vintage area which sells products similar to the ones sold by his grandparents years ago.
Picture: Alistair Wilson (Ref: AN134948)

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Man in court over contacting former partner

A MAN breached a restraining order that banned him from contacting his ex partner after he heard she had started a new relationship.

Aldershot magistrates imposed the order preventing Anthony Lee from contacting his ex-partner Lynda Levers in June 2011.

But 32-year-old Lee admitted breaching the order when he appeared at Aldershot Magistrates' Court last Thursday.

Serena Edwards, prosecuting, said Miss Levers called police on July 24 to say Lee had left a voice message on her phone.

Lee, of Morland Road in Aldershot, was interviewed and fully admitted to police that he left the message as he was upset she was seeing an old friend.

Gillian Bell, defending, asked magistrates to give her client credit for his early guilty plea.

She added Lee was in a relationship with Miss Levers for five years but was upset that she had started a new relationship.

Miss Bell pointed out Miss Levers did not hear the 'very short' message that was left on her phone. She added Lee accepts the relationship is now over and wants to move away from the area.

Magistrates adjourned the case for three weeks so an all-options probation report could be prepared.

Lee, who will be sentenced at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on September 9, was granted unconditional bail.

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