

# Crime prevention advice for the festive season



Christmas is a lovely time of year and hopefully a successful one for all of our great rural small businesses, including farmers and farm shops, around the county.

Unfortunately offenders also know that people will be stocking their shelves with festive items so it is really important to review your security and take precautions.

Please also find advice below on other seasonal issues.

## Farm Shops

If you have stock displayed outside keep it where you can see it easily from the shop.

Always lock it away at night.

If possible have CCTV and an alarm system to protect all of your property.

Report anyone acting suspiciously to the police.

If on a farm ensure you have signs displayed stating exactly what areas are public and what are private.

Display signage showing you are in a police approved watch scheme.

Ensure you have good lighting throughout the night – check bulbs regularly.

## Christmas Trees

Boundary protection is very important. Consider ditches and bunds in vulnerable areas where the trees are close to the road or right of way and the fencing or hedges are not substantial.

Check your stock everyday look to store them in a number of different locations. Report any suspicious activity to the police on 101.

## Poultry

Turkeys, cockerels and geese are all vulnerable to potential thieves, especially at this time of year.

Do not make it obvious where the birds are kept on your premises.

Consider an alarm system or beams that will warn you if someone is near to the birds.

Print off a copy of the Poultry Crime Prevention Advice sheet

## Fisheries

Taking fish from a private lake or pool is theft and should be reported to the police. If you have anyone fishing without permission please report it to the environment agency and police on 101.

Ensure you have signs around the pool stating the membership details, fishing times and that fish cannot be taken.

Advice from the Angling Trust and multi-lingual signs are available on the Warwickshire Rural Watch website under the 'Advice' section.

**Continued on page 2**



**Warwickshire Rural Watch**  
closing the gate on rural crime





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## Festive Season Continued 2 of 4

### Wood

With the cold weather here now and more people using wood burners, wood is an important and valuable fuel.

If you have trees on your property and have suffered from people taking wood without permission put up notices stating private property.

Report any suspicious activity to the police, providing as much information as possible.

Whenever possible remove fallen branches to a safe and secure place on your land.

### Fuel

Fuel tanks are targets for thieves, especially this time of year when offenders know they will be holding a significant amount of fuel.

Ensure you cannot see the fuel tank from the road or right of way and position it as close to the house as possible.

If possible shield it from view by either putting in a locked container, shed or in a secure compound.

Invest in security for the tank, whether an alarm system, beams around the tank, CCTV or guardcam.

Ensure the area is lit at all times.

Print off the 'Fuel Prevention Advice Sheet'

Display signage stating the tank is protected – Warwickshire Rural Watch provide free reflective stickers for your tank.

Report anyone acting suspiciously near to your tank.

### Clubs

Local clubs are getting ready to hold their Christmas parties and are stocking up on food and drink.

Ensure items are not on display whilst being stored.

Wherever possible keep in a locked area. If the clubs location is in an isolated area see if it is possible for someone to store the items for you securely.

Print off the 'Clubs Crime Prevention Advice Sheet' from the Warwickshire Rural Watch website.

Put up signs showing you are in a police approved watch scheme.

Get crime prevention advice from the local policing team or rural crime coordinator – see contacts page on this website

Continued on page 3



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## Festive Season Continued 3 of 4

### Quad bikes, Tractors and Trailers

These vehicles are always vulnerable.  
Never leave the keys in the ignition.  
When not in use, keep in a secure building or yard.  
Consider trackers, alarms and cut off systems.  
Anchor by a secure chain or cable to a strong anchor point.  
Ensure you have a record of the vehicles details including chassis number etc  
Take a photo of the vehicle including any differentiating markings  
Record the details on a property register such as Immobilise.  
Visually property mark your vehicle making unique to you and easily identifiable.  
More information can be found on other factsheets

### Horse Equipment

Rugs should have a unique mark on them such as postcode and house number, freemark or reference number to make it unique and easily identifiable.  
Horse tack should be postcoded or have a unique number recorded on it and registered on the Immobilise property register.  
Horse owners are recommended to download a 'Record Form' from the Warwickshire Horse Watch website – [www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk) and complete all sections including horse details and photos through to equipment and vehicles.

### Livestock

With the hedges losing their leaves and the pasture becoming sparse as winter takes hold, please check for weak spots and ensure all your boundaries and fencing are secure, especially if it is near to the road.  
Ensure the animals have their relevant identifying tags and wherever possible horses are microchipped or freemarked.

### Mud on Roads

Farmers are reminded that wet weather means there is an increased risk of high levels of mud getting onto the roads by tractors, implements and trailers coming off fields onto the highway.

As well as being illegal, this is a problem which has led to serious accidents in the past and it is essential that farmers take steps to minimise its impact.

**Continued on page 4**



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## Festive Season Continued 4 of 4

### And finally your own safety in the darker nights/mornings and Christmas shopping

#### Be Safe Be Seen

With the darker nights and visibility sometimes poor because of weather conditions wear light coloured clothing and where possible reflective items such as strips or badges so drivers can see you.

If out walking your dog consider using a collar or lead with reflective strips.

Carry a mobile phone and always let someone know where you are going and approximately how long you will be.

Consider carrying a personal alarm available from Neighbourhood Watch and retailers.

#### Frosty Mornings

Never leave your car running unattended when defrosting windows.

Ensure your windows are fully cleared and you have all round visibility before driving.

Make sure your number plates are clean and visible.

Do regular checks ensuring you have enough fuel for your journey.

Ensure your oil and water is topped up and that you have plenty of liquid in your windscreen washer.

Take a charged mobile phone with you.

#### Buying Goods online

For information regarding on line shopping please follow the below link to our sister website

<http://safeinwarwickshire.com/crime-prevention/>

#### Being safe Christmas Shopping

An excellent website with all the information follow the below link.

<http://thecrimepreventionwebsite.com/robbery-and-theft-risk/661/christmas-shopping-tips/>