

Over the last few months we have seen a small increase of criminal activity involving the theft of metal and fuel. We have also had a number of shed break-ins where mowers and other equipment has been stolen. The theft of metal gates causes concern as this puts road users at risk from injury should stock from fields gets out onto roads. Also, the theft of gully covers or drain covers is not only a criminal act but could cause serious injury to any person at night who is unlucky to fall into one of the storm drains. The theft of agricultural fuel just over the border in Duncote Mill also resulted in some spillage which has not only left the farmer the headache of loss but also a bill to clean up the mess.

With the better weather arriving I would urge people to make sure that garden furniture and equipment is kept in a secure location. Remember to lock sheds and gates at night.

- Don't make it easy for the thief, mark items and keep them secure.
- Fit a good lock to your garage or shed and **USE IT.**
- Consider buying an alarm for your shed.
- Consider fitting movement activated lights.
- Consider growing hawthorn, firethorn or other prickly shrubs in your border hedges.
- Consider joining Rural watch which now has 220 members in Shrewsbury Rural South.
- Be vigilant and inform police of any suspicious vehicles or activity.

PC David Harte  
Shrewsbury Rural South Local Policing Team