

Police warning over cannabis

■ A 53-year-old man from Glastonbury received an official cannabis warning on August 11, after a small quantity of cannabis was found at his home address.

■ On August 11, somebody gained entry to a property in Godney and removed a laptop computer, several MP3 players and a games console.

■ Between August 7 and August 9, a sharp implement was used to cause damage to a Citroen Saxo in Butts Close, Glastonbury, by deep scratching to bodywork. Wells police would like to hear from anyone who may have seen or heard anything that can assist with their inquiries.

■ Overnight on August 10 silver grey paint was used to spray graffiti on a row of houses in Brookleigh, Street, and a property in Main Street, Walton. Wells police would like to hear from anyone who may be able to assist with their inquiries. In a separate incident, between 7am and 6pm on August 10, red paint was sprayed on a house sign in Main Street, Walton, and a dry stone wall was damaged.

■ Overnight on August 12, parts of a perimeter wall at CSM3D International, Leigh Road, Street, were dislodged and the debris thrown at the building, causing damage to masonry.

■ At 1am on August 15, a back garden at Glanvill Road, Street, was broken into and damage caused to a French window and bird aviary.

Leaking fuel after crash closes road

Emergency services were called to a late night accident in Walton on Monday.

Police were called at 11.45pm after reports of an accident on Main Street in the village.

They arrived to find the aftermath of a collision between a Citroen Saxo and a lorry, with the lorry's fuel tank ruptured and leaking into the road.

Police closed a section of the A39 while the vehicles were dealt with.

Fire crews were called to the scene at 11.58pm to help make the area safe.

"The police asked that we attend after a two-vehicle collision on Main Street in Walton," said a spokesman for the fire and rescue service.

"A car had collided with a lorry and we were asked to attend as fluid was leaking from the lorry."

A crew from Street attended, making the vehicle safe and stemming the flow of fuel.

'Specimen refused' case is adjourned

A 55-year-old Glastonbury man who pleaded not guilty to a charge of refusing to give a specimen when asked by police has had his case adjourned.

Retired school teacher, David Loxton, of Benedict Street, Glastonbury, who was arrested on Friday, July 16, chose to represent himself when he appeared at Mendip Magistrates Court last week.

The case was adjourned until October 26 at Yeovil Magistrates Court.

Brass padlock was stolen from garage

A heavy brass padlock was stolen from a garage in Lower Somerton earlier this month.

The padlock, which was securing a garage, was taken sometime between noon on August 11 and 12.30pm on August 12.

Anyone with information can contact local police on 0845-4567000 or Crimestoppers on 0800-555111.



Henry Tinney on his farm at Cradlestone - he fears the peat-digging firm will not be able to manage the water table successfully

gltinney1908

Plan to extract 20,000 tonnes of peat 'will dry out the land'

By Anna Garside

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People living near Glastonbury are opposing plans to dig 20,000 tonnes of peat from the Somerset Levels.

Residents living near the Cradlebridge site (reputedly the size of 80 football pitches) say it could cause subsidence, damage the natural landscape and affect climate change because digging peat releases greenhouse gases.

But peat firm Durstons Garden Products says the plan would secure jobs in the area for the next 15 years.

Local farmer Henry Tinney, whose family have worked the land at Cradlebridge Farm for more than 100 years, said: "My main objection is that I don't believe they can control the water table in the adjoining land. To extract peat they have to pump water out. This affects the neighbouring land."

"My farm runs along the entire southern boundary they propose digging. I am afraid it will dry out the

land. Historically, the land around peat digging suffers from water depletion.

"I have no confidence in their ability to control the water table. Peat has been dug on land next to ours and we have already suffered from a drop in the water table."

"I want to protect our green and pleasant land."

"We used to have a dairy herd but the whole farm is now given over to pasture. A drop in the water table will affect the production of our ancient hay meadows."

"There is already subsidence damage in the old farm house where I was born."

Briony Lazirides, who lives in nearby Sharpsham, says her home has

already been affected by previous digging. She said it had caused subsidence, affecting her buildings, drain, utilities and phone and that everything was uneven and moved with the vibration of existing traffic. Briony has been trying to sell her home since 2001.

Briony said: "My main concern is the massive climate change issue. This will be a 22-year dig. Government targets are to reduce peat digging by 90 per cent by 2010 and 100 per cent by 2020. The UK is already making 450 per cent of its annual target for peat."

"I believe the site they propose digging is just in excess of 78 acres (30 hectares). Heavy traffic will affect the Glastonbury to Meare Road, Back River Drive and Sharpsham Drive cycle route and there will be a great big hole where the peat will be dug visible from Glastonbury Tor."

"Tessa Munt and Glastonbury town

council have already objected to the application."

Gwillam Wren, from Natural England, told BBC Somerset peat is an organic, carbon-based soil and if you dig it up it starts to oxidise and creates carbon dioxide and increases greenhouse gases in the atmosphere - digging it up and putting it in compost is environmentally a bad idea.

Nigel Cox, general manager of the peat firm, which uses the peat for compost, defends the proposal saying that when you produce a compost that's used by people to grow plants, those plants take back and store the carbon.

Mr Cox also said he is certain nearby homes will not be affected, despite a previous failed planning application.

■ Anybody can comment on the peat digging proposal by emailing: planning@somerset.gov.uk (application number 076719/011).



The iconic Street Youth Hostel on Ivythorn Hill

A chance to peek behind closed doors

A much-loved Street building is to open its doors next month.

The event forms part of the national Heritage Open Days project, which looks to uncover some of the county's best kept secrets.

With buildings ranging from chapels and synagogues to a mausoleum, the scheme gives free access to unique properties which are often closed to the public.

This year, central Somerset residents will be given the chance to take a look inside Street's Youth Hostel, on Ivythorn Hill.

Although now a Youth Hostel, it was originally built - in the style of a

Swiss chalet - by the Clark family as a holiday home, before becoming part of the hostel movement in 1931 - it was the first youth hostel in Somerset.

"It will be open on September 10 from 10am until 4pm, with free entry," said Andrea Napper, from the Street Society.

"This is a chance for local people to look around the chalet and also to enjoy a cream tea provided by the Street Society at a small cost."

"The YHA will also be offering a discounted membership to the association on the day - but people will need to bring some ID with them, if they want to join."