



## Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council Report

Town or Parish :	Morton On Swale
Report Completed By :	PCSO 6786 Kim Laws
Data Reporting Period :	25 <sup>th</sup> September to 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019

### Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-Social Behaviour	0	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>
Criminal Damage	0	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	2	
Other crimes including Drugs	0	
<b>TOTAL THIS PERIOD</b>	<b>2</b>	

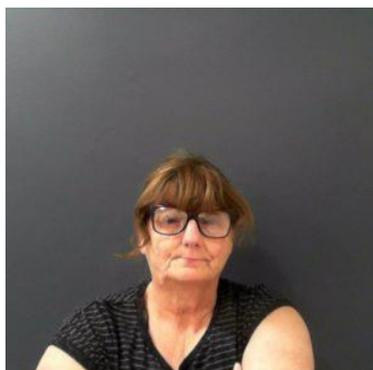
### North Yorkshire Police Updates

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##### Drugs success

On the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> October a vehicle was stopped in Northallerton containing 2 individuals who were arrested for possession with intent to supply following a search of the vehicle where a quantity of class B drugs were found. Both individuals were interviewed and released under investigation. A great stop check resulting in drugs being removed from our streets.

#### A carer has been sentenced for stealing more than £20,000 from a 96-year-old woman she was supposed to be looking after.



Joan Garbutt, 59, from Bedale, withdrew and transferred vast sums of money from her victim's bank account after posing as a friend and carer.

The offences came to light after the death of the elderly woman, who granted Garbutt access to her account so she could help manage her finances.

Garbutt stole a total of £22,805 in a number of transactions over three years.

She was also claiming benefits at the time and acted as the victim's friend but was paid to carry out care duties.

Garbutt was charged with theft but pleaded not guilty. She was found guilty by a jury following her trial.

Appearing at Teesside Crown Court on Thursday, Garbutt avoided jail but the judge gave her a 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

She has also been given a six-month curfew, with electronic tagging that prevents her from leaving her home between 7pm and 7am.

North Yorkshire Police launched a lengthy investigation in 2017, two months after the death of the victim, who was from Bedale.

After the hearing, PC Caroline Pugh, who led the investigation for North Yorkshire Police, said: "This was a sickening act in which Garbutt gained the trust of a vulnerable 96-year-old woman by pretending to be her friend and carer.

"She then abused her position to systematically steal large sums of money from the woman's savings. She showed no remorse and has never admitted her guilt.

"It was a repulsive betrayal of trust and it's difficult to understand how anyone can do something so heartless and calculated to someone so elderly and vulnerable.

"As a result, the victim's family have not only had to grieve the death of a loved one, but have also endured additional upset knowing that Garbutt has preyed on the woman's vulnerability for her own selfish gain.

"I hope the fact she has been brought to justice provides some comfort to them."

North Yorkshire Police has applied for a Proceeds of Crime Act order to try to recover the money Garbutt stole but it is not clear how much can be recovered.

- If you believe that you or someone you know may have been affected by an offence of this nature, please report it to North Yorkshire Police by calling 101 and selecting option 1 to speak to our Force Control Room.

### **North Yorkshire Police is urging shoppers to be on their guard against bogus supermarket vouchers that are being shared on social media in the run up to Christmas.**

Over the past week, Facebook users on the North Yorkshire Police Fraud Awareness page have been warned about a fraudulent website that is promoting £50 vouchers and e-vouchers to people in return for sharing posts and completing online forms.

The website asks for details ranging from a name and an email address, to asking for proof of ID and bank details. It then states that the voucher is not available and the value will instead be paid in to the person's bank account.

The vouchers currently being shared are falsely claiming to be from Morrisons and Tesco.

People are asked not to share these posts online or interact with the website.

Concerns should be reported to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040.

PCSO Nathan Stuart, a Fraud Ambassador for North Yorkshire Police, has been sharing key advice messages on Facebook.

He said: "These vouchers are not real and they are not connected to any of the supermarkets that they claim to be.

“If you consider that 10,000 people could share the post in just an hour, the supermarkets would effectively be handing out half a million pounds which is ludicrous.

“As always, if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.”

PCSO Stuart added: “The fraudsters use this type of phishing scam to obtain details of people for use in criminality. Unwittingly, if you provide your details, they can be sold between criminals and used to further attempt to take your money or can be used in identity theft.

“Please do everything you can to avoid becoming a victim of online fraud, especially at this time of year when people can be tempted by Black Friday or Cyber Monday offers that will be coming up as we head towards Christmas.”

### **More information and reporting concerns**

- For fraud crime prevention advice on social media, you can visit the North Yorkshire Police Fraud Awareness page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/North-Yorkshire-Police-Fraud-Awareness-501398623600896/>
- Or go to the North Yorkshire Police website
- Concerns should be reported to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.