

Would You Do This To Your Grandma?

by

Sergeant Pete Rogers

Pocklington and Wolds Weighton Neighbourhood Policing Team

A serious subject this week: I want you to imagine that you are elderly or infirm and sitting in your house on a cold dark autumn evening. Suddenly you hear a noise, a loud bang and then laughter which drifts off into the distance. You're alone; you're too scared to go outside. What do you do? Then, having spent a sleepless night in fear and trepidation, you venture outside your home the following morning to find that your house has been covered in runny yellow material and a load of white powdery stuff. It has partially dried and has stained the framing on the double glazing. You look around and find all your plant pots in your garden have been knocked over too. Hold on a minute, the stuff all over the windows is egg and flour!

You're too infirm to clean up the mess; you're stuck! You're deeply shocked and in despair as a result of this. ... "Why me?" you ask ... "What have I ever done?"

Am I being over dramatic here? ...I think not.

This week sees the launch of the "Your Mischief Their Misery" campaign in Pocklington and Wolds Weighton. It is a campaign we've devised to particularly highlight the problems and deter the kind of problems which occur in many communities at this time of year in the period before and after Bonfire Night. It is aimed at that minority (and yes, it is a minority!) of young people who get involved in egging and flouring houses and cars over this period, pointing out that it might be fun to them, but it certainly isn't for the victims, many of whom we find from experience are the most vulnerable members of our communities.

So to those who think that this kind of behaviour is fun, I'd simply ask them to consider: would you do it to your grandma or granddad? How would you feel if it was a relative of yours that was a victim, or whose property had been damaged? (Yes, egg can permanently damage paintwork!)

To parents I'd ask: do you know what your children are doing? You wash their clothes... are they covered in egg or flour? Even worse, are you allowing them to go out with eggs and flour on a night? If you're allowing them to go out and do this you're condoning actions which bring great distress and misery to many folk at this time of year! Please help us! Be aware! Be responsible!

To shop keepers and shop staff, you can help us here too! Don't sell flour or eggs to people you believe are under 18, or to those over 18 who you suspect are involving themselves in this kind of activity. Put up one or more of our posters and display the "Your Mischief Their Misery" signs advertising the fact that you're not selling eggs or flour to people likely to be causing these problems.

Our patrols will be out targeting problem areas and individuals; posters and flyers will be going out in the next few weeks and officers will be visiting schools to advise young people and shops to ask them to help support our campaign.

Remember: this is not about fun! The behaviour we're talking about here is malicious and vindictive! If caught, believe me, the offenders will be dealt with!

Use your head! Don't do it!

peter.rogers@humberside.pnn.police.uk