

# Cheeky thief drives off van being unloaded

A THIEF audaciously jumped in a van and drove off – as charity workers were unloading it.

Now the furniture scheme which owns the van may have to shut down, because it cannot operate without it.

The incident happened at 11.30 on Thursday at the Welwyn Hatfield Council for Voluntary Service Furniture Scheme's yard in Tewin Court, WGC.

Driver Ricky Scott had got out of the white Luton transit-style van and had opened the back doors to unload it when the thief struck.

He said "We had opened the back doors to take the furniture out. The keys were still in the van because we needed to operate the tailift.

"Someone jumped in the van and drove off the wrong way down the one way street. We were chasing behind it, but couldn't keep up."

The van contained various items of donated furniture, including a three-piece suite.

Ricky, who has only been with the charity for six weeks said: "it's the only van we've got.

"At the end of the day if we don't get the van back that could be the end of the scheme, which would be a loss to the community." He added: "it would be a shame to see it go under because theft."

**Welwyn Hatfield Times 31<sup>st</sup> September 2005**