



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

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CREDIT CRUNCH

No I'm not talking about a new type of breakfast cereal, but times are hard and there is a temptation to grab a bargain. Remember- if it sounds too good to be true, it is too good to be true. Cheap goods sold at the side of a road or 'from the back of a lorry' could be stolen goods. If you buy them you not only fuel an illegal trade, but are committing a criminal offence of handling stolen goods.

It is tempting to buy cheap goods, but the real price of your bargain is a victim crime – an elderly lady has been burgled, a child has had their bike stolen, another car stereo has been ripped out.

So the next time you're browsing a boot fair, online auction site or offered cheap goods elsewhere, consider this. £20 for a car stereo might seem like a great deal, and it is – the person who it was stolen from paid a lot more.

- If you aren't sure where what you're buying has come from, please don't buy it
- Tell us where and when you saw these goods for sale by calling 101
- Or, if you would like to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At this time of high unemployment and high prices we do across the county see an increase in burglary. One of the best deterrents for such activity is the extensive use of neighbourhood watches. Not only a deterrent, but also a major help in the reporting of suspicious activity. I went to a neighbourhood watch meeting a few months ago in Royston where some of the local co-ordinators were given a talk too by one of our Scenes of Crime training officers who gave valuable advice on what to do to help initially preserve any forensic evidence at a scene while waiting for police officers to attend. Mainly the advice is **DO NOT TOUCH** anything. We know you want to clear up and get on with your life, but just grinning and bearing it for a little while longer could leave you grinning all over your face when I tell you that the criminal that entered your house, business premises or farm yard uninvited has now been invited to spend some time at Her Majesties pleasure. If there is even a tiny amount of blood we can get DNA evidence. If it is outside, say on a window ledge, please cover it up under a pot or something similar that won't touch it. Sunlight can quickly destroy the evidence we need but by just shading it, will give us plenty of time.

Here is some more advice to help you and your neighbours avoid being a victim of burglary.

GET THE LIVED-IN LOOK

When you go out, make your home look occupied, for example:

- Park a car in your drive
- Leave a radio or television on or side table lights when it is dark so that while you are out any potential burglar will hear a noise or see a light and be deterred. Use a timer switch to set and control times if necessary.

I've included an unoccupied premises form with this email- please use it and email me back if you are away: Nicholas.Musto@herts.pnn.police.uk

LOCK UP TO KEEP CRIME DOWN

A third of all burglars break in to houses through unlocked doors and windows, so lock them securely to keep the intruders out.

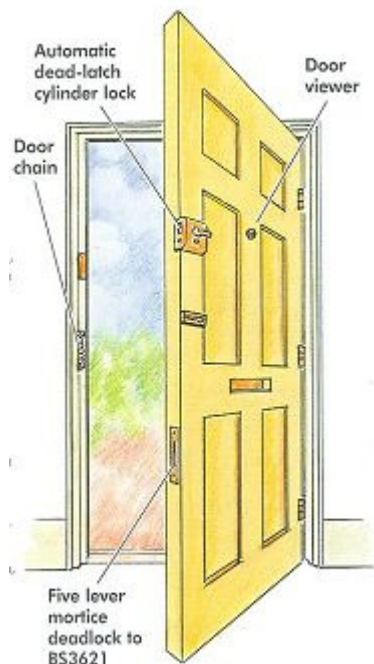
- Always lock doors and windows even if you go out for a short time or if you spend time upstairs.
- Leave any keys well away from doors and windows, put them

DOOR SECURITY



ALWAYS double-lock any UPVC doors by lifting the handle and locking it with the key to fully engage the security devices.

Think before you go to bed or go out, have you locked all your doors and side doors.



- Fit good locks, appropriate to the type of door.
- On your front door, which is usually the final exit door, fit an automatic deadlocking rim lock one-third down from the top of the door. Also a five-lever mortice deadlock, Kite marked to British standard BS3621 should be fitted one-third of the way up the door. This gives two secure locking points when the house is unoccupied.
- A good quality door chain and entry viewer should be fitted on your front door so that you can see who is calling. Use the chain when answering the door to callers.

- On back doors, fit a mortice sash lock, with boxed keep, Kitemarked to BS3621: 1998, with a pair of key-operated security mortice bolts; one bolt fitted at the top and one at the bottom. Alternatively use surface mounted key operated pressbolts; push to lock and key to open.
- Glass patio doors should have a deadlocking multi point system fitted. On older doors, two security press bolts fitted at the top and bottom of the sliding unit will add to the security.
- On outward opening external doors, a pair of hinge bolts should be fitted to support the hinge side from attack.
- When moving into an older home, consider changing the locks on your doors to make sure that you have the only keys.
- Consider fitting a letterbox cage that prevents access through the letterbox and the offender releasing the locks.
- Make sure that your doors and frames are strong, in good condition and are fit for the purpose.
- Glass panels on or around the door are especially vulnerable, so you should replace them with laminated glass which gives added protection.
- If you have a door entry system, make sure that it is used properly.

WINDOWS

Window locks which are visible from the outside may deter thieves because the lock forces the thief to break the glass and risk attracting attention. Thieves are reluctant to climb over broken glass.

- Don't forget window locks for both sashed and hinged windows are available from DIY shops at a small cost. Get advice for the right lock for your style of window.
- Pay particular attention to making sure that ground floor windows and windows that are accessible above flat roofs, close to drain pipes or in reach of fire escapes, are secure.
- If you need advice, the names of local locksmiths who are members of the Master Locksmiths' Association can be found in the telephone directory.

LIGHTS - NO ACTION

- Good external lighting will help to deter the thief when it is dark. Lighting should be placed to cover external doors and vulnerable areas such as rear gardens and sheds. Lighting can be controlled by automatic switches which react to movement, are dawn and dusk sensitive or timer-switched. Install the lights so they are out of reach.
- The use of low consumption lamps is recommended with the units fitted to reduce the light glare and light pollution. Go for good quality rather than quantity.

- Use timers to switch on internal lights if you return home late at night, particularly in the winter months when it becomes dark mid-afternoon.
- When you go out, leave lights on in rooms that are usually occupied to give the impression that someone is in the house.

GARDEN TIPS

Look at your garden as the first step that a burglar may take on the way to getting into your home.

- Remember to lock away gardening tools etc. in your shed or garage, so they can't be used to break in. Keep ladders securely locked with a substantial chain and padlock.
- Keep garden fences in good repair and consider having trellising on the top.
- Make sure that you have a strong garden gate and always lock it. Paths giving access at the side of houses should have lockable gates placed as near to the front building line as possible.
- Roses, a thorny hedge and spiky plants can act as green-leafed deterrents to stop would-be intruders climbing walls or fences.
- Keep hedges, trees and shrubs in your front garden below windowsill height to stop the burglar having a screen to work behind.
- Use additional locks for garages, shed doors and outside storage areas.
- Don't store valuable items, such as golf clubs or fishing gear, in a garden shed unless it has additional security.

WATCH OUT

Be a good neighbour and keep an eye out for unusual callers in your neighbourhood. Call the police if you see anyone acting suspiciously. Don't be fooled by stories, criminals can be very plausible. You can make contact with your local [Neighbourhood Watch scheme](#) to find out what's happening in your area and get useful help. Don't be afraid to call the police at [your local station](#) or in an emergency dial 999. Keep a pen and some paper handy. The car number you jot down may be just what the police need to catch a burglar.

OUT OF SIGHT

- Make sure that expensive items e.g. stereo, CD player, home computer, are not easily visible from the road, attracting unwanted attention.
- Keep special property such as sentimental or expensive jewellery well out of the way by either wearing it or keeping it in a well-hidden place ideally under lock and key.
- Try not to keep important or very valuable property at home. Items such as house deeds should be placed with a bank. Remember, burglars will look through drawers and under mattresses.
- Keep cash or credit cards with you or in a safe place at home.

CONSIDER AN ALARM

Visible burglar alarms may make burglars think twice.

- If you can afford it, have an alarm professionally installed and make sure that you get a number of estimates before making your final choice. To get effective police response, the installer must be a member of an approved inspectorate body. Your insurance company should be able to recommend installers.
- Make sure that the alarm installation complies with the BS4737 (professionally installed) or BS6707 (DIY bells only system).

WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

When you go on holiday avoid drawing attention to the fact that your house is unoccupied.

- Fit timers to lighting and radios to go on and off to make the house appear lived-in.
- Don't forget to cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc.
- Park a car in your drive way, perhaps your neighbour's.

- Consider moving enticing items, such as videos and television, so that they are out of sight.
- If you are away for a longer period of time in the summer months, ask your neighbour to cut your grass. This helps to show that the house may be occupied.
- Ask someone you can trust to keep an eye on your home while you are away. Ask them to make the house look as if it is occupied by closing and drawing the curtains daily and taking in the mail, leaflets and free newspapers from the doorstep.

As above, please complete an unoccupied premises form and email me back.

POSTCODE YOUR PROPERTY

Marking your property can deter burglars. And if it is ever lost or stolen, it will be easier to identify and you will stand a much better chance of getting it back

- Publicise the fact that your property is marked by placing stickers on view from the outside of your home. These are available from your local [crime prevention officer](#).
- Use your postcode followed by your house number or the first two letters of its name to identify each article e.g. a person living at 12 House Street, Thistown, BF3 5HS, would use BF3 5HS 12 while at person living at Little Cottage, Any Road, Village, VI6 4RF, would mark V16 4RF LC.
- Property can be marked in a number of ways including UV security marker pens, which leaves a mark that is not visible to the naked eye. These pens are available from good stationary stores at a reasonable cost.
- Take specialist advice before marking expensive or irreplaceable items.
- Photograph valuable and smaller items on a plain back ground and use a ruler to show the size of small objects. If there is a distinguishing mark, take a photograph that shows it. Video footage of items is also useful.
- Keep a list of all valuable property in a safe place, including make, model description and value.

Village	Area of check	Date and times	No of cars/Top speed/ Average speed
Hinxworth	High Street	25/04/13 1600 - 1630	17 veh / 29 mph / 25.7 mph
Newnham	Ashwell road	25/04/13 1650 - 1720	19 veh / 35 mph / 26 .8 mph
Bygrave	Upper Bygrave	26/04/13 1530 - 1600	25 veh / 32 mph / 28.1 mph
Ashwell	Station Road (40 limit)	26/04/13 1620 - 1650	20 veh / 46 mph / 36.6 mph
Ashwell	Newnham Way	26/04/13 1705 - 1735	23 veh / 41 mph / 24.8 mph
Weston	Hatch Lane	25/04/13 1800 – 1830	14 veh / 27 mph / 23.4 mph

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G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/13/231	Drink Drive	Hinxworth	14/04/13
Speeding vehicle seen by police and stopped. Driver breathalysed and			

arrested.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/13/232	Theft	Radwell	17/04/13
Caravan taken			

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/13/241	Theft	Ashwell	17/04/13
Offender(s) entered shop and while assistant went looking took mobile phone.			

G4D - Barkway, Barley, Reed, Nuthampstead, Newsells, Kelshall and Therfield

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/13/208	Theft	Barkway	07/04/13
Offender was invited into home and while there took phone.			

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/221-226	Burglary	Barkway	11/04/13
Offenders entered business premises and stole computer equipment.			

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/227	Theft from MV	Therfield	11/04/13
Vehicle entered and item taken.			

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/234	Theft from MV	Barkway	15/04/13
Items removed from a trailer.			

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G4/13/235	Burglary other	Barkway	15/04/13
Pavilion entered and metal taken from within.			

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothal and Weston

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/138	Burglary	Halls Green	08/04/13

Shop entered and computer equipment taken.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/143	Theft	Sandon	10/04/13

Items taken from remote field.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/144	Burglary	Weston	10/04/13

Bowling machine taken from cricket club.
Arrests made – machine to be returned.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/150	Theft from MV	Weston	18/04/13

Plates taken from motor vehicle.

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Time & Date
G3/13/162	Dogs dangerously out of control	Weston	22/04/13

Two dogs attacked another.

Incidents In our area

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
02-03	10	12	30	10	8	12	9	8	100
03-04	03	13	28	3	8	13	9	3	80
04-05	4	13	4	0	4	0	1	0	26
05-06	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	6
06-07	0	4	4	6	1	0	2	0	17
07-08	3	10	4	6	9	2	4	3	43
08-09	7	5	2	4	4	4	2	1	29
09-10	3	3	10	3	1	1	2	1	24

10-11	0	2	2	4	1	1	0	9	10
11-12	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	7
12-13	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	6

Rushden	15/01/13	Sandon	12/09/12
Therfield	13/11/12	Reed	29/08/12
Barkway	10/03/13	Barley	04/03/13
Kelshall	08/04/13	Nuthampstead	15/06/11
Ashwell	05/09/12	Bygrave	19/03/12
Caldecote	28/05/11	Weston	11/04/13
Radwell	10/05/11	Wallington	15/01/13
Hinxworth	06/12/12	Clothall	09/01/12

Police Surgery times and dates:

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/aCMS/team.php?nptID=63&dID=5>

Useful Links

<http://www.herts.police.uk/>

<http://www.doglost.co.uk/>

<http://www.stolenhorseregister.com/>

