



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, April 2015

PC Mike Hardiman 2787, PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522,
PCSO Penny Tomsett 6531

Sgt Westwood 1604



Our Non - Emergency Number 101

Help secure properties from burglary whilst away with free timer switches and padlocks

As the warmer months are approaching and people tend to go away more it's important that residents in North Herts remember to properly secure their homes, sheds and outbuildings whilst away.

To help residents secure their properties against burglary, North Herts Community Safety Partnership has secured funding to make light timer switches and heavy duty padlocks available to members of the public for free. The North Herts Community Safety Partnership consists of North Herts police, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue and North Herts District Council. The partnership works together to deliver a number of projects which support community safety, crime and disorder issues.

The timer switches and padlocks will be handed out at engagement events police officers held in North Herts or you can approach Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team obtain them by calling 01438 757935.

In exchange for the free security items, officers will encourage people to sign up to Neighbourhood Watch. By joining the scheme you can help to make your community safer and will get regular updates from your local police about crimes and events happening in your area.

Light timer switches enable home owners to programme when a light comes on, which can deter burglars by making them think that residents are at home. The heavy duty padlocks are suitable to securely lock sheds and outbuildings.

North Herts Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector Duncan Sales, said: "Ensuring your homes, sheds or outbuildings are secure when you go away is very important. I hope local people will make good use of these padlocks and timer switches and will also take the opportunity to join Neighbourhood Watch to help make the area they live in even safer."

Peter Carey, North Hertfordshire District Council's Head of Environmental Health said: "Even though North Hertfordshire is a low crime area with one of the lowest crime figures in the county the community can still do more to protect homes and property against burglary when they go away. Timer switches and padlocks are a great way to help make the community a safer place and we are happy to be supporting this crime prevention initiative."

Burglary in North Herts

Tackling burglary in North Herts is a top priority and in the past year, the district has seen a reduction in crimes of 17 per cent.

Duncan added: "We are really pleased that overall incidents of dwelling burglary have decreased compared to last year. To achieve this we have been targeting affected areas with high visibility patrols to deter would-be burglars. We have also undertaken covert patrols to monitor hotspot areas and gain intelligence. Alongside this we have been talking to local residents, giving them crime prevention advice and signing them up to Neighbourhood Watch. "We are determined to do all we can to keep burglary figures falling and this work will not relent. To help us, I'd advise members of the public to also consider the following crime prevention advice:

- Make sure you double-lock any UPVC doors by lifting the handle and locking it (to engage the security features) before you go to bed or leave your home (if you remove the key make sure you have a fire escape plan).
- Check all doors are locked and all windows, including those upstairs, are secure before you go out.
- Consider installing alarms and 'dusk to dawn' security lighting.

- Secure your rear garden - lock your shed, shut and lock any gates and keep fences maintained. Don't leave ladders and tools outside - they could be used by a burglar.
- Use timer switches on lamps to give the impression somebody is at home.
- At home, keep all loose valuables out of sight of any would-be thieves.
- Don't leave any boxes which advertise to thieves what's available in your home outside by the dustbin. Where possible, keep your wheelie bin a good distance behind the gate or fence to prevent them being used to get into the garden.
- Post code marking your valuables with a UV pen and registering them on a free property database like www.immobilise.com can work as a deterrent to thieves and can increase the chances of your property being recovered if it is stolen."

Members of the public can sign up to Neighbourhood Watch by contacting their local Safer Neighbourhood Team. Call the non-emergency number 101 to get through to your team. Alternatively, you can sign up directly and find further information by visiting the scheme's Online Watch Link (OWL) webpages www.owl.co.uk

Please be aware that numbers of the timer switches and padlock are limited and will be issued on a first come, first serve basis.

Six sentenced for drugs conspiracy

Six sentenced for drugs conspiracy Six men were sentenced on Thursday, April 23 at Cambridge Crown Court to a total of over 41 years in prison for their role in a conspiracy to supply drugs in North Herts and surrounding areas.

The group were charged following a wide reaching investigation by officers from Hertfordshire Constabulary's specialist Serious and Organised Crime Group. The investigation saw a number of warrants taking place in North Herts, Stevenage and Luton to proactively target drug dealer Christopher Collins (pictured below), and others who were working for him between October 2013 and February 2014.



Collins, who goes by the street name 'Mouse', is 29 years old and from Coopers Yard, Paynes Park, Hitchin. He pleaded guilty on 12th September 2014 to conspiracy to supply cocaine and cannabis and a proceeds of crime act offence. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Officers had significant intelligence he was instrumental in the supply of drugs in North Herts. He had a number of people who he relied on to hold the drugs at different locations including Letchworth and Hitchin. They would also move, store and supply the drugs at street level.

The others sentenced were:

- * 28 year old Adam Pike, who is of Wilbury Way in Hitchin, was seen as Collins' main assistant. He was sentenced to ten years for conspiracy to supply cocaine and cannabis.
- * 22 year old Faizan Farooq of Sunnyside Road in Hitchin, was sentenced to five years four months for conspiracy to supply cocaine and cannabis.
- * 26 year old Amadur Rahman of Jessop Road in Stevenage was sentenced to four years for conspiracy to supply cocaine.
- * 36 year old Graham Winslow-Earl of Talbot Road in Luton was sentenced to seven years for conspiracy to supply cocaine

* 56 year old Eustace Smith of Pascal Way in Letchworth was sentenced to three years four months for conspiracy to supply cocaine

Both Collins and Pike will be subject to a serious crime prevention order for five years upon their release from prison.

Detective Inspector Ian Butler from the Serious and Organised Crime Group said: "Our operation has been a huge success and has led to the disruption of a significant drug ring. Whilst Collins was the leader of this group and it is right that he received the most significant sentence, he would not have been able to supply drugs at this level without those who supported him and I am pleased the courts have recognised their role in the running of the operation.

"Collins however, was not only dealing drugs he was living off the proceeds of his illegally gained money which he spent on expensive cars and holidays. We will be looking now to identify any assets he has bought with drug money to take them from him. By removing property we are ensuring we really are making them pay."

Chief Inspector for North Herts, Julie Wheatley, said: "North Herts is a safe place to live and visit however, we have a small minority of people who are involved in crime and it is right we protect law abiding citizens from the blight of these offenders.

"Drugs have no place in our society and we will do everything in our power to disrupt and arrest offenders. The community truly are our eyes and ears when it comes to crimes such as these and I would like residents to feel empowered to be able to report any suspicions they may have. People involved in such crimes can be intimidating, but they have no place in our society and together we can ensure our communities are even safer by working together to put them in prison."

In all there are 30 people connected with the conspiracy. Some have already been sentenced and others will be dealt with sentenced at Cambridge Crown Court on May 21.

Mobile Phone / Tablet advice



Over 80% of the UK population own a mobile phone and one in ten people own a tablet.

As technology becomes increasingly advanced, these devices connect people to thriving digital world, including banking, shopping, social networking and media.

They can prove an attractive prospect for thieves, as not only are they high value items - they contain lots of personal data too.

Having your phone or tablet stolen can have immediate consequences, so follow our practical advice on how to keep your device safe:

Register your mobile phone or tablet with immobilise at www.immobilise.com Link to an external website

Be aware of your surroundings and avoid using your phone in an isolated environment

Always use the phone's security lock code or PIN

Keep the phone with you and do not leave unattended

Do not leave your mobile phone in your vehicle.

Have the phone security marked and keep a clear record of its details including the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number. The IMEI is a 15-digit serial number which can be obtained by keying *#06# into your phone or by looking behind the phone battery

Extra security is available for smart phones and tablets by installing a tracking application.

These 'apps' are available from your device's application store and can help you locate lost phones/tablets or help police recover stolen devices using its GPS signal.

Make sure your device is locked when not in use as tracking apps can be deactivated by thieves if the device is not locked.

Popular free phone and tablet tracking apps include:

Find My iPhone, iPad and Mac Link to an external website

BlackBerry Protect Link to an external website

Where's My Android Link to an external website

Many other security applications are available from your device's application store.

If you have information about stolen mobile phones or any other crimes, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. You could receive a reward.

On-Line Watch Liaison (OWL)

Owl is a messaging service that keeps you up to date with on-going crime trends and crime prevention advice. You can choose how you receive the information for example over the phone or via email. This is a useful tool as it keeps you up to date with current crime in your area and will inform you of this to look out for.

I have attached an Owl form; please take a minute to complete the form and send back to be on this email address –

Christopher.brabrook@herts.pnn.police.uk



**Police and Crime
Commissioner**
for Hertfordshire

Local Crime Information,

Reported Crimes

G4E – Ashwell, Hinxworth, Newnham, Bygrave

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/275	Damage	Barley	26/04
Offender has used an unknown			

implement to smash a rear windscreen of a car

G4D – Barley, Barkway, Nuthampstead, Reed, Therfield, Kelshal

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/230	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Barley	02/04

Motorbike stolen from an address in Barley

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/238	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Barley	06/04 to 07/04

Car stolen from a street in Barley

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/246	Burglary - Other	Barley	07/04 to 11/04

An offender entered a garage and removed items

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/271	Damage	Barley	24/04

Offender used an unknown implement and have scratched a vehcile

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G3/15/169	Theft	Weston	07/04 to 08/04

Offenders have approached a fuel tank and removed

fuel by unknowns means

Your local Neighbourhood Police Teams website

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/Teams.aspx?TeamID=G01>

Useful Links

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

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

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

Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team Tel – 01438 757935