



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, December 2015

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***Our Non -
Emergency
Number 101***

Don't let the criminal enjoy Christmas at your expense.



Christmas is a busy time of year for everyone, including the criminal. We know, however, that a high percentage of crime is opportunistic, and can be prevented by taking some simple precautions.

Top tips for a crime free Christmas

Your car

- Don't leave presents in full view on the back seat when out shopping. These can be tempting to thieves. Lock them away out of sight in the boot.
- Always lock your car and make sure windows are closed, even if you're away from your vehicle for just a few minutes. Use a steering lock if possible.

- Never leave your keys in the ignition whilst your vehicle is unattended, even for a few minutes. Opportunistic thieves will often steal cars that have been left with the engine running to defrost the windows.

- Don't leave any valuables in the glove compartment. Take bank cards, mobile phones and satellite navigation systems with you. These items are on a car thieves' shopping list.

- Make sure you park in a well-lit area or in an attended car park. Look out for the Park Mark award logo for safer parking

Your home

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even when you are in the house.

- Keep presents out of sight. Large piles of gift wrapped goodies under the tree that are visible through a door or window are tempting to thieves.

- Don't leave empty boxes on display outside. Discarded packaging advertises all the new goods you have indoors.

- Don't leave car keys and handbags lying around on display.

- Make it look like someone is at home when you're going out for the evening. Leave lights on and close the curtains. If you have a burglar alarm, set it.

- If you're going on holiday over the festive period, ask a friend, relative or neighbour to keep an eye on your house.

Your property

- Make sure all valuable property is marked. You can either postcode mark your property with an ultra violet pen, or use a forensic marking solution such as Smartwater.

- Register bike frame numbers, mobile phone IMEI numbers and other identifying details on Immobilise, the free, national property registration scheme.

The police recover hundreds of stolen items every year, and it's much easier to prove that an item is stolen and return it to the rightful owner if it's been registered with Immobilise or security marked.

- Don't carry large amounts of cash on you when you go out. Be alert, and make sure your purse or wallet is secure and hidden from view.

- Don't keep your chequebook and card together. Keep your PIN confidential and don't write it down.

- Check that your home insurance adequately covers you for the value of goods in your home.

Passing stolen goods

You can make it difficult for criminals to operate by not purchasing stolen property. If you are offered a quality product at a bargain price ensure that the source is genuine.

Residents asked to be vigilant after burglaries in North Herts

Police in North Herts are urging residents to secure their properties after a spate of burglaries that have happened since the beginning of September.

North Herts has had a total of 84 burglaries where homes have been targeted since September. Twenty-nine have happened in Hitchin, 24 in Letchworth, nine in Baldock and 22 in Royston. Overall this is an increase of five per cent compared to the same period last year, with the steepest rise being seen in Royston which has had an increase of 32 per cent. This equates to an additional seven victims in the town.

In most of the burglaries, offenders have gained access to properties through gates to back gardens at the side of homes that have been left unlocked and through PVCu rear or side doors and windows that haven't been double locked.

North Herts Chief Inspector Julie Wheatley said: "Although we haven't seen a major increase across the whole of North Herts, even a slight one is a concern for us. We will do everything we can to put a stop to these crimes and will be directing policing resources to hotspot areas, particularly Royston.

"Burglary is a devastating crime which can have a long-term effect on the lives' of victims. As the evenings are now getting darker earlier and with Christmas on the horizon, the risk increases and, whilst we are working hard to prevent burglaries occurring in North Herts, we are urging residents to take some simple steps to help keep their properties more secure. Make sure all doors and windows are fully locked before leaving your property unattended and consider installing a timer switch to turn on lights when it gets dark to make it appear that someone is at home.

"My officers will be out and about on proactive, highly visible and covert patrols over the coming weeks to stop burglars in their tracks and prevent break-ins.

"I would also ask members of the public to be vigilant, if you see someone acting suspiciously in the area or notice an unfamiliar car in your street that

seems out of the ordinary, please contact us on the non-emergency number 101 or 999 if you believe a crime is in progress.”

Hertfordshire Constabulary offers the following crime prevention advice:

- Make sure you double-lock any PVC 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.

Residents can also help us in the fight against crime by joining Neighbourhood Watch. Members receive regular information via the OWL messaging system which updates on crimes happening in local areas and give tips on crime prevention.

Being part of the scheme can create a sense of community, give you peace of mind and even reduce your home insurance. You can join OWL and Neighbourhood Watch by contacting your local Safer Neighbourhood Team via the non-emergency number 101.

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



Local Crime Information,

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/825	Burglary - Shed	Station Rd, Ashwell	14 th to 15 th November
Offenders have removed a padlock, nothing taken			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/863	Theft of number plate	Springhead, Ashwell	26 th November
Offenders have removed a numberplate from a vehicle and left the area			

G4D – Barley, Barkway, Reed, Therfield, Kelshall and Nuthampstead

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/795	Burglary - Dwelling	Church Lane, Barley	30 th November to 6 th December
Between material times cosmetic and jewellery items missing from a property			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/800	Burglary - Shed	Royston Rd, Barkway	8 th to 9 th November
Attempted burglary			

to a shed, disturbed and the offenders ran away			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/805	Burglary - Dwelling	Smiths End Ln, Barley	10 th November
Patio door smashed, entry gained and jewellery removed			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/806	Burglary - Dwelling	High Street, Barkway	10 th November
Offenders have smashed a kitchen window and gained access, jewellery taken			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/809	Burglary - Outbuilding	Cokenache, Barkway	10 th to 11 th November
Offender have forced a metal door, entry gained, nothing taken			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/810	Burglary - Outbuilding	Sandon Rd, Therfield	10 th to 11 th November
Offender removed a padlock to a sewage works, winch removed			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/879	Burglary - Outbuilding	Burrs Lane, Barkway	27th to 30th November
Offenders have entered a building site and have removed power tools			

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G3/15/553	Burglary - Dwelling	Redhill, Rushden	5 th November
Offender gained			

entry via patio door and have removed a safe containing jewellery			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G3/15/576	Damage	Ashanger Ln, Clothall	20 th November
Offender has damaged a door handle to a hall, possible attempt to gain entry			

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