



***Royston Rural
Watch,
January 2016***



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

Police warn drivers not to leave keys in the ignition

As the weather turns colder Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning drivers not to leave vehicles unattended with the keys in the ignition, whilst waiting for it to defrost.

One vehicle has already been stolen this year after the keys were left in the ignition when there was an overnight frost appeared.



Inspector Paul Lawrence, of the Crime Reduction Unit, said: "The weather has been pretty mild over the last month, but colder weather appears to be on the way. Defrosting the car in the mornings isn't a pleasant task and we've seen in the past that leaving the car running whilst you go back inside where it's nice and warm can give thieves any easy opportunity.

“Your insurance companies may not cover you if your vehicle is left insecure or the keys are left in the ignition. Those few extra minutes in the warm, could end up costing you thousands of pounds. Never leave your car unattended with the engine running.”

The frosty weather also makes driving very hazardous, but you can stay safe and protect your vehicle by doing the following:

- ALWAYS ensure your windscreen and other windows are fully de-iced and de-misted before moving off. Driving without clear visibility is not only illegal but puts you, pedestrians and other road users at risk. It's worth the few minutes it takes to prepare your car properly.
- Ensure your wiper blades are in good condition and make sure you have plenty of washer fluid.
- Slow down – make sure you adjust your driving to the conditions of the road. Sometimes it is about driving under the legal limit. Try to keep steering smooth and avoid braking sharply where possible.
- Check your tyres are correctly inflated and have good tyre tread (and remember the absolute minimum legal limit for cars is 1.6mm).
- Be smart - stay with your vehicle and never leave it unattended with the keys in the ignition, even for a second, when de-icing the windows. Thieves are opportunistic – don't give them a free ride.
- Register your sat nav – you can register your sat nav and other valuables for free at: www.immobilise.com. It helps police return any recovered items to you if they are lost or stolen and serves as a deterrent to potential criminals – as well as helping police to catch those responsible.

For more advice on how to keep your vehicle safe and secure, please visit www.herts.police.uk/crimeprevention.

Police advise dog owners to keep them on leads in Royston's rural area's

Officers from Royston Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team are advising dog owners to try and keep their dogs on leads and under control, particularly around Royston Heath and other rural areas.

The advice follows feedback from farmers who have expressed concerns over the number of dogs that are getting through fencing into a field where sheep

are kept. Once inside the dogs start to chase the sheep which causes them a great deal of distress and the shock of this can even kill them.



PCSO Chris Brabrook, said: "We want people who visit Royston Heath and Royston's rural areas to enjoy the countryside, but are asking them to keep their dogs on leads in rural areas - especially if there are other animals and livestock nearby.

"Owners are advised to keep their dogs on leads and away from where livestock are grazing. If a dog worries livestock, then the owner or person responsible for the animal is guilty of an offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 and could be sued for compensation by the farmer."

He added: "People should also be aware that the law allows farmers to shoot animals if they are found to be worrying livestock, so it is very important that dogs are kept under control in these areas."

Anyone who witnesses someone allowing their dog to worry and disturb livestock is asked to contact police via the non-emergency number 101.

Make your mobile devices safer

Hertfordshire Constabulary is reminding people that they can protect their mobile devices by making use of security features and tracking applications.

Many stolen mobile devices have previously been recovered by police, thanks to the tracking applications installed on them. The 'apps' make it possible to locate devices using the GPS signal, helping to recover lost or stolen devices and even catch criminals before they can dispose of stolen devices.

Most mobile devices have security features designed to stop anyone else accessing and using them other than the owner. These security features include:

- Locking your devices using a code, pattern or fingerprint recognition
- Tracing the location of, wiping data from, or locking your handset remotely using another internet enabled device
- Needing to enter a separate password or account ID to prevent thieves from simply resetting your handset to its factory setting, and therefore resetting any codes or other security features you have set.

However, these features will only protect your devices if they are switched on. A variety of tracking 'apps' are available for Apple, Android, Windows and other mobile devices and are easy to download and usually free. The 'apps' can be activated remotely via internet enabled devices, such as a PC, smart phone or tablet.

If a device with an 'app' installed has been lost – the owner can locate the device and collect it themselves. However, if a phone has been stolen the owner should call the police as soon as possible, as they may be able to track the phone, recover it and make an arrest.

If you believe your mobile device has been stolen call the police non-emergency number 101. If you are able to report the theft at the time it is happening, call 999 and give the call-taker your tracking app details.

It is strongly recommended that owners contact the police rather than try to recover stolen devices themselves, as this could place them in a difficult or even dangerous situation. Lost devices that you can trace back to somewhere you have been recently will be safe to collect yourself, but if it is subsequently stolen or you remotely locate it to a place you have never been, please exercise caution and call the police for advice.

There are a number of suitable tracking apps available for Android, Apple and other devices, which can be downloaded from the appropriate application stores. More information on these apps can be found at: www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/protecting-your-mobile-phone/.

Inspector Paul Lawrence, from the Crime Reduction Unit said:

“Mobile devices are amongst the most commonly stolen items, as they are easy to steal, valuable and can be sold on very quickly. Most devices now have tracking applications, or can have app installed on them, which makes it more difficult and risky for thieves to steal these devices.

“If you don't have a tracking app installed on your devices I would strongly urge you to install one and keep a record of the app installed. Then, if it is lost or stolen, it is much more likely that you can get it back. These apps can also protect the data held on your devices which could otherwise be used to access your bank accounts or other personal data. You should also keep your devices locked when not in use, to ensure a thief cannot deactivate the app, or access your personal data.”

These are other steps you can take to make your mobile devices more secure:

- Only use apps from your accredited app store and look for the ones with the best ratings and feedback
- Some devices have tracking apps pre-loaded but may need activating
- Always lock your device when not in use

- Use your device discreetly in public places
- Never leave devices on tables in cafes, pubs etc. or on display in vehicles
- Register devices on the free online database www.immobilise.com. That way if it does get lost or stolen, police are able to return it to you if it is recovered.

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



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



Local Crime Information,

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/888	Burglary - Other	Newnham Airfield	03/12/15
Offenders entered a hanger and have removed an aeroplane engine			
Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/903	Burglary - Other	Springhead, Ashwell	08/12/15
Forced a rear door with a screwdriver, nothing taken			

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

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/954	Burglary	Police Row, Therfield	29/12/15
Patio door smashed, entry gained and jewellery taken			

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G4/15/957	Burglary	Cambridge rd, Barkway	30/12/15
Offenders smashed French doors, cash and jewellery taken.			

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Crime No.	Offence	Location	Date
G3/15/631	Damage	Quickswood	22/12/15
Motorcycles driven across a farmer's field have caused damage to crops.			

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