



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, January 2017

PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522, PC Mark Ellwood 371 & PCSO 6531 Penny Tomsett

Sgt Guy Westwood 1604



*Our Non - Emergency
Number 101*

Message from the Team



Now that Christmas and New Year feel like a long and distant memory, it's safe to say that Winter is well and truly here, bringing with it blustery wet days and long dark evenings. Historically, burglars do tend to favour this time of year and we get a rise in dwelling burglaries.

This year is no exception, and although this part of North Herts is extremely safe with low crime

figures, we have seen an increase in dwelling burglaries.

Please consider the following crime prevention tips to help protect yourself from burglary:

1. If you have a uPVC door, make sure the handle is pulled up and it is double locked to engage all the bolts.
1. Make sure windows are shut and locked before you go out.
2. Keep side gates locked, with your wheelie bins on the garden side of the gate, so they cannot be used to climb over the fence.
3. Keep all tools locked securely in your shed or garage so they can't be used to break into your property.
4. Fit security lights that come on if they detect movement.
5. Keep valuables out of view of the windows when not home as much as is possible

6. Consider taking photographs of your most prized possession and registering them on www.immobilise.com. Therefore in the event of your property being stolen and recovered by police, we will be able to return to items to you.

7. Use timer switches to put lights on when you are out to make it look like someone is home.

8. Report anything or anyone unusual in as much detail as possible, such as strange callers, vehicles seen hanging about, strange noises or anyone trying to sell things cheaply. Call the non-emergency 101 or 999 in an emergency.

One further way the public can help us to reduce crime is by joining Neighbourhood Watch. Members receive regular information via the OWL messaging system which updates on crimes happening in local areas and gives 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. Call the police non-emergency number 101 and ask to speak to one of us in your Safer Neighbourhood Team for further information. By all working together through Neighbourhood Watch we can help keep reducing crime and keeping North Hertfordshire a safe place to live and work in.

Appeal following the theft of a caravan

Officers investigating the theft of a caravan are appealing for information and witnesses.

The incident happened between 7pm on Monday, December 19 and 2am on Tuesday, December 20. A white caravan was left locked and secure in the layby on the A505 between the Wallington roundabout and the Weston Tunnels, just outside Baldock, when it was taken. It is believed the offender(s) have removed the whole caravan by towing it and driving in the direction of London Road, Baldock.

Due to this crime the victim, a 38-year-old woman from Letchworth, is now of no fixed abode and has lost many of her personal belongings as a result.

PC Chris Brown, who is investigating, said: "A woman is now homeless due to the extremely selfish actions of others, so if you do have any information I would please urge you to come forward and speak to me. Any detail, however insignificant it seems, could prove crucial.

"I would be very keen to speak to anyone who may have seen any suspicious behaviour on the A505, or a caravan being towed on the surrounding roads between the times stated.

Anyone who has any information should please contact PC Brown on Hertfordshire Constabulary's non-emergency number 101, quoting crime reference G4/16/1086.

Alternatively, you can contact the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their Anonymous Online Form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will never need to go to court.

Keep your Vehicle Safe this Winter



With the weather set to turn colder this week, Hertfordshire Constabulary is warning drivers not to leave vehicles unattended with the keys in the ignition, whilst waiting for it to defrost.

Every year vehicles are stolen after keys are left in the ignition with the engine running.

Inspector Paul Lawrence, of the Crime Reduction Unit, said: “The weather is forecast to turn colder over the next week and snow is likely in some parts of the county. Defrosting the car in the mornings is one job that we all dread and thieves are only too keen to take advantage of such opportunities.

“We have also had reports of burglaries where car keys have been targeted so make sure you do not leave keys at home in places where they can be easily seen and make sure doors are locked securely, especially PVCu doors which need to be locked by lifting the handle and turning the key to engage all the safety bolts.”

Keep your vehicle secure and yourself safe this winter by doing the following:

Vehicles should never be left unattended on the road with the engine running.

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.



Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

- On Saturday 7th January in the Maltings, Ashwell a vehicle was damaged in the car park. Two wing mirrors and a rear windscreen was smashed. G4/17/27 refers
- Overnight on Saturday 7th January in Partridge Hill, Ashwell. Batteries were taken from the garden of a property. G4/17/46 refers
- Overnight on Saturday 21st January a vehicle was driven across a farmers field causing damage to the crops. G4/17/61 refers

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

- On Monday 9th January between 7.50 am and 2.10 pm a house was burgled in Cambridge Road, Barley. The offenders gained entry by the back door of the property using force. A search took place and items were stolen included money and jewellery. G4/17/28 Refers
- On Tuesday 10th January between 9.30am and 6.15pm a house in burgled in Smiths End Lane, Barley. The offenders gained entry by a window at the back of the property using force. A search took place and items were stolen included money and jewellery. G4/17/32 Refers
- Between Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th a theft took place in Shaftenhoe End, Barley. Batteries were stolen from a tractor and from an electric fence around the area of Lovely View Satbles. G4/17/33 Refers
- Between Sunday 8th to Tuesday 10th January, metal ornaments were stolen from a garden in Shaftenhoe End, Barley. G4/17/37 Refers
- On Wednesday 18th January during the daytime a burglary occurred in Park Lane, Nuthampstead. The offenders approached the rear of the property and forced entry. Once

inside the offenders removed money and jewellery. G4/17/52 Refers

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

- Overnight on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th January a Stables in Newell Lane, Luffenhall was broken into. A head collar and bridles were stolen, G3/17/24 refers
- On Monday 9th January at 1pm offenders broken into a house in Mill End, Rushden. The alarm was activated and the owner of the property witnessed a Green old style BMW 3 series driving away from the property. G3/17/28 refers

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