



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## ***Royston Rural Watch, August 2018***

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

Sgt Guy Westwood 1604



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

### **On the Beat -**

#### [Images of stolen jewellery released following burglary – Hinxworth](#)

Officers investigating a burglary in Hinxworth have released images of some jewellery that were stolen as part of an appeal for information.



It happened at a property off the High Street at around 3pm on Tuesday, July 3.

Offender(s) gained entry to the rear garden before smashing a set of patio doors and searching the property.

They took a wooden jewellery box containing a large amount of jewellery, including those pictured. They are a distinctive pearl and amethyst pendant, and a small perfume bottle worn on a chain which is made out of mother of pearl.

Detective Constable Georgina Peggie, from the North Herts Local Crime Unit, said: "This is understandably a really upsetting crime for the victim as the items taken have huge sentimental value and simply cannot be replaced.

"I am asking people to familiarise themselves with these unusual pieces of jewellery in case the offender(s) try to sell them, either in a shop or via social media.

"I am also asking those who live locally or had been visiting the area to please cast their minds back and try to remember if they saw any suspicious activity in the village that day. Any information, however insignificant it may seem, could be the key to solving the crime."

Anyone with information is asked to email DC Peggie on [georgina.peggie@herts.police.uk](mailto:georgina.peggie@herts.police.uk), report online at <https://www.herts.police.uk/Report> or call the non-emergency number 101, quoting crime reference number 41/13979/18.

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

## Don't leave your home vulnerable to burglars this summer

- Residents advised to keep windows and doors secure during warm weather
- Give your home a lived in look when you're away
- Keep gardens secure and tools locked away

As the holiday season approaches Hertfordshire Constabulary is reminding people not to make their homes an easy target for burglars this summer.

As the weather heats up burglaries often increase, as warmer weather tends to mean open windows, open doors and unlocked garden gates, which can provide opportunities for burglars.

Whilst burglaries have remained at around the same levels between April and July 2018, compared to the same period last year (up one per cent), there is often an increase during the summer holidays with homes left empty when people go away. Burglars love empty homes, but if they don't know you are away, your home is unlikely to be targeted.

Social media is a great source of information for criminals. If you post about your holiday or check in on Facebook, wherever you may be, make sure your privacy settings only share your updates with people you know and trust. Using location services to tag where you are,

can also tip people off that you are not at home, or can even give the precise location of your home.

Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, said: “Many people will be preparing for a holiday over the next few weeks and leaving their homes unoccupied. By taking a few precautions before you set off, you can make your home more secure. Joining a neighbourhood watch scheme is a brilliant way to boost community safety and get support from your neighbours to make your street and local area a less attractive prospect to potential burglars. If you look out for your neighbours whilst they are away, they will return the favour.”

Inspector Nicola Dean, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Crime Reduction Unit, warned: “During the summer holidays, burglars target homes that are empty, looking for signs like unopened mail, uncollected bins and no lights on during the evening. You can use technology to help make it appear as though your home is occupied, using timer switches on lights and fitting cheap doorbell and external security cameras.

“We know that criminals scour social media for information that can help them commit crime and burglars are no different. Everyone loves sharing their holiday updates with friends and family online, but makes sure you know who is looking at your posts, ensure only people you know can see your posts.”

There are ways to give your home a ‘lived-in’ look when it’s unoccupied, so that any would-be thieves aren’t tempted:

- Ask a neighbour to put your bins back if they’re being collected whilst you’re away – if they’re left out after collection day it could indicate to a passing thief that your house is unoccupied. Be a good neighbour and do the same for them.
- If you aren’t leaving your car at home, ask a neighbour/friend to park their car on your drive.
- Don’t forget to cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc.
- Consider moving valuable items, like laptops and televisions so they are out of sight.
- If you are away for a long time in the summer months, ask a neighbour to cut your grass. This helps to show that the house may be occupied.
- You could also ask someone you trust to help give your home the lived-in look by opening and drawing the curtains, and move any post away from the letterbox.
- You could store valuables in your loft when you go away.
- Consider installing a wi-fi enabled doorbell camera
- Join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme or if there isn’t one, perhaps you could start one. Visit [New windowwww.hertswatch.com](http://www.hertswatch.com) for details on local watch schemes.

All these tips can help to give your home the 'lived-in' look. For more detailed security advice, please visit our crime prevention pages or contact us on 101.



## Local Crime Information

### **G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote**

Burglary, Hinxworth - On 3<sup>rd</sup> July between 11am and 6.30pm a house was burgled not far from the High Street. The offenders entered by smashing the patio door window. Once inside the offenders stole Jewellery, please see the above article.

Theft from Motor Vehicle, Hinxworth – Overnight on 17<sup>th</sup> July number plates were stolen from a vehicle parked in the High Street, Hinxworth

Business Burglary, Newnham – On 26<sup>th</sup> July a container was broken into at an industrial site in Newnham. Three offenders were captured on CCTV at 10.14pm wearing boiler suits and using a crow bar gained entry to the empty container. The males made off in a dark saloon car similar to a Vauxhall Vectra.

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

Damage, Reed – Between 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July a garage was targeted in Crow Lane, Reed. The offender smashed off a padlock to the garage, unknown if the garage was entered as nothing was stolen.

### **G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston**

No Reported Crime

### **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**