



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, October 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 -

Protect your vehicle this autumn

- Drivers urged to secure vehicles following rise in theft from cars and vans
- Stevenage, Hertsmere and Dacorum saw biggest rise in thefts
- Thieves are targeting tools left in vans

Hertfordshire Constabulary is urging drivers to make sure to keep their vehicles secure this autumn, following an increase in thefts from cars and vans.

There has been an increase in thefts from vehicles since the beginning of April 2018, compared with the same period last year, of around seven per cent across the county. However, some areas are experiencing significantly higher increases:

- Stevenage 84 per cent (up from 131 to 242)

- Hertsmere 27 per cent (up from 231 to 294)
- Dacorum 18 per cent (up from 359 to 427)

Inspector Andrew Palfreyman of the Crime Reduction Unit said: “Thefts from vehicles have continued to increase in some parts of the county, so we are reminding drivers not to encourage thieves by leaving valuables on view in your vehicle. Make sure that any items such as coats, bags, phones are out of sight and try to remove anything of value from the vehicle when left overnight.

“Vans continue to be a target for thieves looking for tools and other equipment stored in them. Criminals have become more sophisticated in the methods they use to bypass some vehicle security systems, so I urge the removal of tools or installing a tool safe. We are running crime prevention events across the county helping people to secure their vehicles and security marking valuables. Details of these events can be found at www.herts.police.uk

To help prevent theft from your vehicle:

- Never leave valuables on display
- Never leave tools in your van unless they are secured in an approved* tool safe
- Fit good quality approved* additional external locks to van doors
- Engrave or mark tools and their boxes with your postcode and house number
- Use an approved steering lock or gear clamp, and remember to set your immobiliser and alarm if you have one.
- If away from home consider parking your vehicle in a ‘Park Mark’ approved car park. www.parkmark.co.uk

To help prevent your vehicle being stolen:

- Never hand vehicle keys over to a third party or leave the vehicle unattended at a valet parking, car wash or other parking places, where criminals can gain access to the vehicle and code a key electronically.
- Consider fitting an ‘OBD safe’, a secure lockable device that fits over the vehicle’s on board diagnostic (OBD) port, in the vehicle cabin. This prevents criminals using software to code a key from the vehicle.
- Consider fitting a dual band tracking device that works on VHF/UHF and GPS, to make it more difficult for the tracking signal being blocked.
- Criminals can also employ remote/keyless entry jamming equipment so make sure your car is locked by trying the door before leaving it.

- Ensure that 'home' on your vehicle sat nav is shown as the post code of your local police station and not your actual home address.
- Use an approved* steering wheel lock and never leave your vehicle unlocked, even for a moment.

*We recommend products that are "Sold Secure", see their website for details: www.soldsecure.com or "Secured By Design", see their website: www.securedbydesign.com

Cold Callers - 'Nottingham Knockers'

Reports of cold callers in the Barley / Barkway area

Hertfordshire Police have received a number of reports of males in the Barley / Barkway area attempting to sell items door-to-door.

The sales group, known as 'Nottingham Knockers' traditionally carry large holdalls containing cleaning items, which they offer for sale. Some residents are reporting that if they decline to purchase any goods, the individuals use pressurised selling techniques causing the home owner to feel intimidated. West Mercia Police are advising that if any sales person comes to your door selling any products, do not be persuaded to part with money for products you don't need or are of poor quality. Residents are also advised to use precautionary measures such as a door chain and to ignore callers if they are unsure who it may be.

Anyone selling products on a door-to-door basis are required to be in possession of a valid pedlars certificate; a card with the person's name and photograph is NOT sufficient.

If in doubt, do not answer the door and report sightings to the non-emergency police line on 101.

Eight scams to watch out for in 2018

1. Social media spying. People might not realise how much information they are giving away, but to a fraudster the posts can be very helpful in setting up a scam.
2. Malicious software on smartphones. It is expected that malware or malicious software threats will grow among mobile devices.
3. Bogus Brexit investments. Consumers should be wary of fake investment opportunities. For example, fraudsters may email customers, warning Brexit

will affect their savings, and that they urgently need to move them into a seemingly plausible, but actually fake, investment product.

4. Ticket Scams. Some fraudsters will sell event tickets that are either fake or will never arrive. It is also expected that "package trips" will be offered by fake travel companies. Always buy tickets from a reputable source.

5. Money mules. Mule recruiters may trawl social media for potential targets, particularly cash-strapped students in university towns, and use them to inadvertently launder money. Money mules receive the stolen funds into their account, they are then asked to withdraw it and send the money to a different account, often one overseas, keeping some of the money for themselves.

6. Wedding excitement. Experts fear couples could be easy prey for fraudsters who tempt victims with extravagant offers at bargain prices. Fraudsters can set up fake websites for elements of the big day like venue hire, catering, or wedding dresses that appear very realistic. Fake wedding planners will take people's money and then disappear.

7. Romance scams. Criminals create fake profiles to form a relationship with their victims. They use messaging to mine victims' personal details to use for identity fraud. Or, just when the victim thinks they have met the perfect partner the fraudsters asks them for money.

8. Scams aimed at first-time buyers. Computer hackers monitor emails sent by a solicitor to a first-time buyer and then they pounce, pretending to be the solicitor and telling them the solicitors' bank account details have changed in order to steal cash.

Julie McArdle, NatWest security manager said: "Scammers are dogged in their attempts to get their hands on people's money and are always looking for new ways to get ahead. This means banks and customers need to evolve alongside scammers too.

"By being aware and staying ahead of scammers, we can stop them winning and keep the country's money safe and secure."

If you think you have been a victim of fraud you should report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by using the website –

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Theft of Motor Vehicle, Ashwell - Overnight between 1st and 2nd September in Dick Smiths Walk, Ashwell a Landrover Defender was stolen from a farm. The vehicle was left locked and secured, offenders stole the vehicle by unknown means. 41/33022/18 Refers

Robbery, Radwell – At 22.30 on 9th September 3 offenders wearing balaclavas and carrying knives knocked at an address. The offenders have forced past the home owner who was chased off from the premises. A search was completed by the offenders and money was stolen. 41/35333/18 Refers

Burglary, Ashwell – Overnight on the 9th to 10th September the offender has gained access by forcing a garage door. Once inside the offender has stolen 5 rolls of lead to the value of £500. 41/35397/18

Theft of Pedal Cycle, Ashwell – Overnight on the 9th to 10th September an un-attended bike was stolen from the front of a property in Back Street. 41/35461/18

Theft, Ashwell – Overnight between 29th to 30th September a Park home site was entered in Station Road, Ashwell. Once on site the offenders stole 3 x fire extinguishers and made off direction unknown.41/41709/18 Refers

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

Arson, Reed – Between 01.30 to 02.11 on 2nd September a 10,000 ton Straw Stack was set on fire, unknown what ignition was used at this time. 35/2722/18 Refers

Burglary, Therfield – Overnight between 10th to 11th September, offenders have entered a kitchen of a property by an open window. The offenders have stolen car keys to a Ford Ranger and left by the back door. Offenders have driven off in the stolen vehicle. 41/35707/18 Refers

Theft of Motor vehicle, Therfield – Between 13th and 14th September a Volkswagen Amarok pickup truck was stolen from a farm in Therfield. The vehicle was driven through a 6ft wooden fence, leaving the farm and made off. 41/36713/18 Refers

Damage, Therfield – Overnight between 23rd and 24th September offenders entered farm land. The offenders have approached a game pen and smashed the pen causing damage, luckily the pen was not being used to house game

birds at that time. The offenders also stole batteries used for the electric fence whilst at the location. 41/40465/18 Refers

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Burglary, Sandon – Between 07.30 and 23.30 on 12th September, between material time the offender has approached metal being stored at the side of the property and has removed items. The value of which amounted to £500, 41/36368/18 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