

Winchmore Hill Newsletter – AUGUST 2021

Car crime continues to be our number one reported problem by volume. It is essential all of you use a good steering lock at least at night when most thefts of cars happen. An example of a good brand is the Disklok. I can recommend it by name because it is approved by Secured By Design which means it has been police tested.

<https://www.autoexpress.co.uk/product-group-tests/95031/best-steering-wheel-locks-2021>

Another excellent defence is to install software (a brand I can't mention because, to my knowledge, it is NOT approved by Secured By Design) which requires the driver to enter a sequence of buttons known only to them before the vehicle will start. But by FAR the MOST important measure is to keep your fobs inside a Faraday box or pouches (and to remember to make sure the spare is protected too!). Theft by relay-attack is very common now and takes a couple of minutes. But if your signals are protected, thieves can't use them to steal your car(s).

The other way thieves steal our cars is by gaining entry sometimes using a device which unlocks most car doors and then reprogramming the key via the OBD (On Board Diagnostics) port. This is also done in a few minutes. The device used to open the door is a specialist device which is not normally available to thieves looking to steal property from cars.

Sometimes car thieves will break the driver's side window & take something

of value to disguise their having copied the key via the OBD port. Then when you have repaired your car's window, the thieves will arrive one night and use their cloned key to drive the car away. Precisely for this reason Jaguar reprogrammed a key belonging to one of our residents after replacing a broken window following a theft from their car.

There are devices available to protect the OBD port.

Driveway bollards help a lot too.

The problem of thefts from motor vehicles is most often due to owners forgetting to check if their cars were locked when they walked away. This is the most commonly reported crime in WHW. We know from doorbell CCTV that there are people who go from car to car trying door handles in the dark. When a crime report says a car was rummaged through and no damage was done to the car, often the car was accidentally left unlocked. If the thief spots something of high enough value, then often a window gets broken to gain access.

One thing I don't understand is why insurance companies give discounts based on what kind of house door locks we have but DON'T offer a discount to homeowners who have fitted laminated double glazing or Hammerglass (a Secured by Design approved product). Normal double glazing is a burglar's entry route into a house. Getting through laminated glass, on the other hand, takes a lot of effort and is a very noisy endeavour. Few burglars would risk alerting the neighbours with the noise getting past laminated glass creates. The

following article, although a bit dated, is worth a quick read:

<https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/stop-the-pane-of-a-burglary/1357024.article>

I am pleased to say ParkWatch has had 7 of you express interest in participating. These patrols will be resident led to help make our park safer. If you want to join too, email Dionne John at

southgatestreetwatch@gmail.com

She gets people trained up and DBS checked. This is a non-confrontational voluntary role for adults who are at least 18 years old. You would patrol with a minimum of one other ParkWatch volunteer wearing a high visibility vest with StreetWatch or ParkWatch written on it. Your patrols will provide reassurance to our residents when they are in Grovelands Park.

DO NOT report crime on Twitter. In emergencies always call 999.

The MET CONTACT CENTRE (@metcc) Twitter account is NOW working 24/7.

Issues that you'd normally report by ringing the police

non-emergency number 101 CAN be reported using Twitter. Just make sure @metcc is included in the tweet.

JULY saw a total of 74 crimes reported.

Burglary

Vicars Moor Lane 13/07/21 10:50pm entry via ground floor window. Ex-partner arrested on scene by police.

Vehicle Crime

Grovelands Rd 01/07/21 1am-7am car window smashed. Shoes, tools & £15 stolen.

Denleigh Gdns 17/MAY/21 white Ford Transit stolen. Reported 01/JULY/21.

Burford Gdns 01-02/07/21 a white BMW X2 sDrive20i M Sport X SAC parked on street outside house was stolen. Believed fobs not taken. Please protect your car using Faraday pouches & a good steering lock.

Ringwood Way 02/07/21 number plates stolen from a car.

Stone Hall Rd 06/07/21 at 1055pm victim saw men steal her catalytic converter.

Hoppers Rd 06-07/07/21 a Motability car was stolen.

Highfield Rd 07-08/07/21 victim's 5 cars have had their windows smashed. Items stolen.

Cedar Rd & Highfield Rd 07-08/07/21 victims' 8 cars have had their windows smashed & locks tampered with possibly a screwdriver. Items stolen.

CAVERSHAM AVENUE 09-12/07/21 van rear doors opened by drilling hole into lock & items stolen from within.



Highfield Rd 05-07/07/21 car door lock interfered with causing damage. Entry into car not gained.

Carpenter Gardens 02-12/07/21 car door lock forced to gain entry. Contents of car rifled through. No mention of anything taken.

Derwent Road 21/07/21 2:30pm-8pm. Red Alfa Romeo VRM HEZ8575 stolen. Victim lost her keys in the street.

Firs Lane 27/07/21 8:30pm-9:30pm blue Ford S-MAX vrm HG65TFV stolen (keys not taken).

Denleigh Gardens 28/07/21 11:30am-1:30pm hole drilled into work van door lock & tools stolen.

Radcliffe Rd 01/06/21-30/07/21 (June or July) a blue Audi A3 vrm DA04CXZ was stolen.

Robbery

No robberies reported in July.

Faraday Pouches & Boxes

If you have a keyless ignition car (stop/start button), it is ESSENTIAL for you to purchase 2 Faraday pouches to keep your fobs inside. One is for your everyday car fob and the second is for the spare fob. These will stop thieves from stealing your vehicle using a method known as relay-attack. A metal tin box does NOT work and neither does wrapping the fobs in aluminium foil. Be sure to periodically test your pouches to make sure they function and the Velcro is still good. There are Faraday boxes too which many find more convenient. New Mercedes cars are an exception and other manufacturers should follow their lead. Their fobs have a motion

detector inside which powers them off when motionless. No power = no signal for thieves to use.

With burglary, keep in mind that one of the most common methods of entry is smashing through double glazed windows. Laminated windows are two panes of glass with a sheet of plastic joining them together. They resist being broken through for much longer than normal double glazing. Normal double glazing offers no resistance to being broken. Our local glazier HOND & LANGER on Green Lanes N21 fits laminated glass.

A stronger, lighter alternative is **Hammerglass**. This 'glass' is a Secured by Design accredited product. You can read about it in these links:

<https://www.hammerglass.com/property/windows-doors/>

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/about-us/news/hammerglass-ab-the-swedish-company-aiming-to-become-the-leading-manufacturer-and-supplier-of-unbreakable-glazing-solutions>

If a burglar can't break through your glass windows they may try to pry them open. Make sure your windows' locks are robust.

Please make sure your windows and doors are locked when you leave the house. Think about security around your home. Does your home have CCTV, security lights, an alarm and timer switches? Use your downstairs alarm setting at night. Mail visible in the porch is a sure sign of nobody being home. Use a mailbox either



inside the slot or outside so mail is hidden.

Remember to periodically check that your light timers aren't turning on too late as the days decrease in length. Never forget that, to a burglar, a dark house is an empty house.

LIFT - LOCK – REMOVE

Please remember to double lock your front doors whether you have a UPVC door or have a Yale and mortice. If you also have a UPVC porch door then double lock that too. If you have security devices installed, please use them.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE FOR DOUBLE LOCKING A UPVC (THREE OR FIVE POINT LOCKING SYSTEM) DOOR.

If a UPVC door is not locked with a key, the door handle goes down when tried from the outside. A door left like this (i.e. just pulled shut) is very weakly secured with ONLY THE ONE LATCH keeping it shut. This is the point on the doorframe where the suspects target with their screwdrivers or crowbars and can pop your door open (sometimes with very little effort). How do they know which doors to try? Simple: they try the handle. If it goes down, they know the door is not locked properly with the key and therefore will be easy to open.

We offer all residents a crime prevention visit carried out at their home. Simply contact us via the details on this newsletter to arrange an appointment.

In relation to motor vehicle crime please **PHYSICALLY CHECK YOUR CAR DOORS ARE LOCKED** before you walk away. I am still being made aware of cars being left open and items from within being taken by opportunist thieves. Number plates are sometimes stolen from vehicles. If you would like tamper proof screws please call your local Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 721 2681.

Catalytic converters

Catalytic converters get stolen for the metals they contain. If your car's cat/con is exposed, please speak to your vehicle manufacturer for advice on protective devices that can be fitted around it (like a Catloc). Also consider a car alarm that activates when the car is lifted or tilted.

ATM crime

It's always safer to enter a bank or store and use the ATM inside.

If you are not in a queue and you're the first (that you know of) to use an outdoor ATM, use an expired card to check the machine before inserting your good card. If the ATM returns your card then the ATM should be fine. Criminals use a plastic sleeve to prevent your card from being returned.

Don't withdraw large amounts of cash as thieves follow the elderly to steal

the money from their handbags in the next shop they enter.

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Park Run

Your local Winchmore Hill Police team partake in our local Grovelands Parkrun event every 5th Saturday. We will announce the next time we are at Parkrun on Twitter, Nextdoor & OWL.

For more detail regarding crime committed in Winchmore Hill Ward, follow us on Twitter @mpswinchmoreh for the updates or visit www.police.uk

Team Members

Based at Southgate Police Station, your Dedicated Ward Officers for Winchmore Hill Ward are:

- PS Matt BLOOMFIELD
- PC Andrew LAZARI
- PC Kelly MILLER
- PC Sunny PARBAT
- PCSO Antony RIVAS

We can be contacted on: 0208 721 2681

Or email us:
WinchmoreHill.SNT@met.police.uk

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter for daily updates, crime prevention advice, local events and meetings.

@mpswinchmoreh

@metcc

@mpsenfield

Twitter

