

## Winchmore Hill Newsletter – January 2021

### Dear Residents

Happy New Year everyone!! We are expecting a police constable to be joining us in a couple of months (hopefully sooner!) & then we'll be back up to full strength for a London ward.

During these difficult times, we implore you not to gather in The Green N21. The new Covid variant spreads much easier and it is important we all play our part. Keep in mind that 1/3 of people who have the virus show no symptoms.

Some criminal man has been ringing the elderly and, pretending to be police, proceed to ask for their bank details. Then he'd ask them to leave their cash & bank cards in an envelope under their door mat for collection. One of our ward's victims was kindly paid the £800 he lost back by Armour Security on Green Lanes. And his neighbours had a whip round too.

Make sure your light timers are working.

There is a new police website called OWL (Online Watch Link).

**OWL provides the public in London with the latest local crime alerts sent by email. It's an effective solution for police & communities to grow and**

**manage Neighbourhood Watch, Business Watch, CCTV Watch and dozens of other schemes. The neat feature in OWL is that you can link your CCTV to the police database (not in real time) to aid investigators.**

[www.owl.co.uk/met](http://www.owl.co.uk/met)

To those of you who have already signed up, what do you think about OWL so far?

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**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.

**How we interact with you due to Covid-19 CONTINUES to be that all police contact points are cancelled. You can always reach us via social media, email & telephone.**

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**August saw a total of 84 crimes reported. September saw 84 too. October 101, November 93 & December 80.**

REPORT for Aug,Sept,Oct,Nov,Dec:

Residential burglary: 9,4,8,3,6

Attempted burglary: 3,0,1,1,4

Distraction burglary: 0,0,1,0,0

Commercial burglary: 0,0,0,4,1

Attempted com burg: 0,0,0,0,0

Theft from m vehicles: 12,12,9,13,10

Theft of m vehicles: 4,2,11,3,3

Vehicle interference: 4,7,5,4,4

Theft of bicycles: 3,0,1,0,0

Theft from a person: 0,2,0,2,1

Other theft: 5,4,0,6,7

Robbery of a person: 0,2,2,1,1

GBH: 1,3,4,2,1

ABH: 1,0,2,3,3

Possession of cannabis: 1,1,2,2,0

Domestic related: 12,6,15,7,9

In this email, a lot of the crime prevention advice remains the same because a) it's a reminder to do it & b) for the benefit of those reading this for the first time.

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 will 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 early as the days increase 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. Also, number plates are being taken from vehicles. If you would like tamper proof screws please call your local Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 721 2681.

### **Carpark Scam**

Someone has been approaching shoppers as they leave in their cars. They say 'Did you know you now have to pay to park here? You'll get a fine. Follow me in my car.' The shopper then follows the fraudster to another location (often the Palmers Green BR car park) to 'pay' in another machine.

### **Catalytic converters**

Catalytic converters occasionally get stolen for the metals they contain. Honda Jazz, Lexus, and Toyota Prius are commonly targeted. If you have one of these, please speak to your vehicle manufacturer for advice on protective devices that can be fitted around the catalytic converter. Also consider a car alarm that activates when the car is lifted or tilted. See:

<https://www.garageservicesnorthlondon.co.uk/catalytic-converter-thefts-prevention-tips/>



## **ATM crime**

Barclays cash point on Station Road has been a favourite spot for criminals. It's best to avoid this particular ATM. 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.

Elderly victims who have parked near ATMs have been approached by criminals who convince them they're about to get a parking ticket and to avoid it all they need to do is put their card into the ATM and you can guess the rest! Please warn your loved ones.

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## **Public meeting points: ALL CURRENTLY CANCELLED**

### **Park Run**

Your local Winchmore Hill Police team partake in our local Grovelands Parkrun event every 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday. Come and 'run with a copper' or come talk to us. **CANCELLED FOR NOW.**

## **#crimepreventionbikeride**

Join us for a bike ride around our ward where good/bad practice will be pointed out as we go along. These bike rides are announced on Twitter & Nextdoor.

### **Farmers' Market**

Your local Winchmore Hill Police Team will be at the Farmers' Market when it resumes. **CANCELLED FOR NOW.**

**For more detail regarding crime committed in Winchmore Hill Ward, follow us on Twitter @mpswinchmoreh for the updates or visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)**

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## **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.

## Team Members

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

PS Matt BLOOMFIELD  
PC Andrew LAZARI  
PCSO Antony RIVAS

We can be contacted on: 0208 721  
2681

Or email us:

[WinchmoreHill.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:WinchmoreHill.SNT@met.police.uk)

## Twitter

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

@mpswinchmoreh

@metcc

@mpsenfield