

Winchmore Hill Newsletter – APRIL 2022

Hello WHW.

Starting off with some sad news, after a number of years on the ward PCSO Antony Rivas is leaving us this month for pastures new in Cornwall. Antony will be missed on the ward but I'm sure we cannot blame him for moving to a place like Cornwall.

On a positive note, there has only been one report of a burglary on Winchmore Hill in the month of March. There have also been no robberies on the ward for 5th consecutive month.

A note about how cases are handled. Victims are often understandably disappointed to find out their case has been closed hours after it being reported. This occurs when there are no leads for police to follow. A case is re-opened if any lead(s) come to light in future. A lead can be (amongst other things): information, DNA or CCTV with a recognizable face or other unique feature(s).

IMPORTANT

Apple have brought out their own version of a smart tracker like the brand Tile etc. These devices use Bluetooth technology and rely on nearby phones using their apps in order to function.

Apple Airtags can be used to keep track of pretty much anything with great success due to iPhones being almost everywhere. Be mindful that they can be hidden on you or your car without your knowledge. Your iPhone will alert you to the presence of an unknown Airtag but if you have another make of phone you may not be made aware. Tracker Detect is the app for Android phones to be alerted to the presence of Apple Airtags.

<https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2022/02/an-update-on-airtag-and-unwanted-tracking/>

Using an AirTag is one way to keep track of your car's location.

A copy of the crime prevention advice we give to victims of crime is at the bottom of this newsletter. Please read through it.

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

The MET CONTACT CENTRE (@metcc) Twitter account works 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.

February had a total of 78 (up from 55) crimes reported.

March 2022

Burglary

Woodberry Avenue 18/03/2022 unknown suspects have forced entry via the front door and stolen a handbag.

Vehicle Crime

Fords Grove Car Park 04/01(JAN)-01/03/22 a black Ford Focus vrm BD58OXL was stolen.

Woodberry Avenue 01-02/03/22 sunglasses stolen from car. No damage caused in gaining entry.

Wades Hill 02/03/22 at 8:08PM a silver Land Rover Evoque vrm LO19KKA (containing a black Canada Goose jacket) was stolen by a white man seen on a doorbell video. Thought to have been stolen by relay-attack. Tracker cut out at Ulswater Rd.

Church Hill 26/02-02/03/22 a silver Mercedes Sprinter vrm EX18GME was stolen from outside owners address (keys not taken).

Barrowell Green 07-08/03/22 tools stolen from a van. Door was damaged to gain entry.

Lytton Ave 07-08/03/22 a grey Ford Kuga vrm YE58EDO was stolen. Keys not taken.

Hadley Way 08-09/03/22 theft of number plates from a silver VW Golf vrm NA14OMC.

Arundel Gdns 20/01/22 a black VW Touran vrm KD05VRX was stolen. Owner was abroad & got a ULEZ fine on Manor Rd.

Caversham Ave 10-11/03/22 a grey Mercedes E220 vrm OE63FSS was stolen from outside house. Keys not taken. For newer cars, 'keys not taken' usually means it was stolen by relay-attack. This can be prevented by using two £5 Faraday pouches and/or a Disklok steering lock (which prevents thefts of BMW steering wheels too).

Hillfield Park 20-21/03/22 overnight another BMW steering wheel was stolen. A good steering lock will prevent access to the screw thieves have to remove to steal these.

Robbery

None to report for the 5th month in a row.

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 gluing 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.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE WE GIVE SOME VICTIMS OF CRIME:

Please register on OWL: www.owl.co.uk/met

And visit www.owlprotect.uk

Park Run

Your local Winchmore Hill Police team sometimes partakes in our local Grovelands Parkrun event on the Saturdays when we start at 8am. We will announce the next time we are at Parkrun on Twitter, Nextdoor & OWL.

For more 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 Danni Jones
PC Andrew LAZARI
PC Mariya ANGELOVA
PCSO Antony RIVAS

OWL provides the public in London with the latest local crime alerts sent by email. It's an effective and proven solution for police & communities to grow and manage Neighbourhood Watch, Business Watch, CCTV Watch and dozens of other schemes.

OWL is used by the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Barnet, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Hackney, Brent, Barking & Dagenham, Harrow, Richmond upon Thames, Wandsworth, Waltham Forest and Enfield in partnership with local Neighbourhood Watch coordinators to communicate with residents and businesses across the Boroughs.



Secured by Design

SBD

Police Preferred Specification

OWL is accredited by Secured By Design

OWL is the first and only communications system to be an approved member of Secured by Design and is an official police security initiative. Secured by Design is the only way for products to achieve police recognition in the UK. It's a flagship police initiative to help 'design out' crime through the use of high-quality, innovative products and processes, such as OWL.



OWL's security is tested daily. Click the McAfee Secure logo for verification.



From the login page all data sent between your computer and OWL is securely encrypted over the Internet. Please keep your OWL password a secret and never disclose it to anyone, not even police or OWL staff.

The ideas in the following pages are my suggestions for you to research online and are not officially endorsed by the Met unless mentioned in the SECURED BY DESIGN website:

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

Ideas to prevent becoming the victim of burglary:

Install a home alarm. Wired is best for large properties. Wireless is fine for flats. Tell your neighbours if it's monitored or not so they know to check your house if it goes off. In the absence of a home alarm use window shock alarms which can be purchased at stores like B&Q.

Outdoor/ Indoor CCTV

Smart outdoor floodlight with built in video camera which records sound too. RING makes one. Good for gathering evidence in neighbor disputes.

Have a good look around the Secured by Design website and especially at their list of approved manufacturers: <https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

Indoor home security cameras with facial recognition:

<https://www.cnet.com/home/security/best-facial-recognition-security-cameras/>

Wireless CCTV for home and cars: Ring, Blink, Nest and Hive are a few brands.

An effective home security step to prevent a burglar entering by smashing through glass is to install Hammerglass. Breaking double glazed windows is one of the most common entry methods. Hammerglass is accredited by Secured by Design and is 300 times stronger than glass:

<https://www.premier-ssl.com/hammerglass>.

The next best alternative is to install LAMINATED glass which is 2 panes with a layer of plastic in between. The plastic holds the glass on both sides together making breaking through MUCH more difficult.



Stickers in windows: “Beware of the Dog” and “CCTV in operation”.



Consider getting a dog (sorry cats! When have you EVER seen a police cat?)



Use flood lighting (check out MPOW solar lights) and keep hedges low.

Flimsy trellis on garden fence and over gate. Use a warning sign for any measure that could harm a burglar (barbed wire etc.). The people most likely

to come to harm are the emergency services when they are trying to gain access to help you. Good signs will be appreciated!

Gate off the gap between houses which leads to the garden gates. Do it close to the street. Put trellis above the gate attached to each house. Better yet, roller spikes with a warning sign.

Chain down ladders and lock your shed.

Trackers (for cars, cycles, even pets!)

If your car starts with a 'PUSH' button, keep the key fobs (remember the spare fob too) inside Faraday pouches. These pouches are available online or in the automotive shop near the junction of Station Road and Green Lanes (they're a fiver each there). DO NOT STORE KEY FOBS IN TIN BOXES!! IT DOESN'T WORK. Periodically test the pouches to make sure they are still keeping the radio signal contained. Faraday boxes are available too.

New Mercedes models have smart fobs which power off when set down (i.e. are motionless). Contact Mercedes for more information. Use their Mercedes Me app for loads of features including tracking the car.

Supposedly there is a device car thieves have which will open pretty much any car door (a method different to relay attack). Once inside they reprogram a new key via the OBD port under the steering wheel (modern day version of hotwiring). There are locks designed to protect the OBD port. The best protection currently appears to be the ghost immobilizer. NOTE: thieves dedicated to stealing from cars will not normally have access to the door unlocking device mentioned above. They rely on cars being left unlocked.

Use, especially at night, the silver disc steering wheel lock which encases the steering wheel completely. It is called a Disklok.

Use light timers, smart light bulbs controlled by mobile phone, light bulbs that turn on and off automatically (dusk to dawn bulbs).

Consider installing a wireless driveway alarm and perimeter alarm.



Connect your radio to a timer and use a Fake TV light.

Properly lock front door at night. Use the chain and all the locks.

Don't leave house or car keys near front door or in sight of the letterbox or windows.

NOTE!

If you use an alarm fob with your home alarm, make sure your home address (i.e. driver's license) isn't in your bag too. Otherwise, if you lose your bag: keys + fob + address = easy burglary!!

Lock your car. They DON'T lock automatically. If you believe yours does, test it. Always lift the handle after locking to test it's actually locked.

Shut and lock windows.

Do not leave keys in window locks or inside doors.

Plant prickly plants along fence.

Set up a Neighbourhood Watch or Whatsapp group and follow us on Nextdoor.co.uk

Photograph your valuables and keep them with the receipts inside a fire resistant box in the loft along with other important papers. If your insurance

company asks for them, you'll have them. Keep it unlocked, you don't want a burglar to take it and open it up somewhere else.



Keep your wheelie bins **BEHIND** your garden gate, not street side.

Make use of [immobilize.com](https://www.immobilize.com) and Bike Register.

Motion activated 'barking dog'.

Don't let your post build up when you're on holiday.

When leaving windows open, many windows have a partially open locked position - make use of it.

Gravel walkway and driveway.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @mpswinchmoreh for more crime prevention ideas😊

Use thumb turn locks for windows and French door locks.

Garden fence spikes. ANYTHING you use which might harm someone must be accompanied by a warning sign!

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE:
Check out online (all products are not official endorsements):

Fit a Ghost Immobiliser

CCTV and in car cameras

CCTV covering your drive - consider installing CCTV cameras on the front of your property to cover your driveway and car.

CCTV inside your car - consider installing a hidden CCTV camera inside your car to cover any movement or unauthorised entry.

Wireless CCTV for home AND CARS: <https://uwatch.co.uk/tradetooltheft/>

- **Fit theft resistant number plate screws** – stolen number plates are commonly used to hide the identity of stolen vehicles. Use one way clutch head screws to secure the plate.
- **When out and about** - try to park in an area that is overlooked and well lit
- **Thieves are using sophisticated methods to steal vehicles with electronic key** scanners being used to locate the signal from the key. To prevent this 'RELAY-ATTACK', always keep the key fob in a metal lined security pouch or box (aka Faraday pouch or box)

Cars and vans

- **Leaving items on show is an invitation** – power leads, SatNavs and mounts, stereo front panels, coins, sunglasses, tools, clothing and bags should be removed from the vehicle or placed out of sight.
- **Keys and ignition fobs should kept safe and out of sight and reach** – the most common ways to steal a car or van is to take the keys or ignition fob, either when left in the vehicle or from your home through burglary. Try not to keep your keys in an obvious place such as the hallway or kitchen.
- **Always lock and close the windows of your vehicle when unattended** – on the drive, the petrol station forecourt or when parking. An unlocked vehicle is the easiest to steal or steal from.
- **Fit an alarm or immobiliser**
- **Use a steering wheel lock like a Disklok**
- **Consider using a gear stick lock**
- **Thieves target cars for their catalytic converters. A tilt alarm will sound when they lift the back of your car to steal it or tow it away. Get a Catloc fitted.**

Motorcycles and mopeds

- **Keep your motorcycle or moped in a garage, shed or designated bike store at home** – storing it out of view is one of the best ways to prevent opportunist theft. Consider fitting a garage or shed alarm.
- **Fit an alarm, immobiliser, preferably with tracking capability and property mark any panels** – alarms act as a deterrent. Tracking devices and property marking assist in recovery should your motorcycle or moped be stolen
- **Lock the rear wheel to an immovable object or ground anchor and use a disk lock on the front wheel** – making the vehicle less of any easy option will reduce the chances of it being targeted. Combine the use of a disk lock on the front wheel and a chain lock to a ground anchor.
- **Don't rely on the steering lock** – standard steering locks are easily defeated and your bike can always be lifted into a van if not secured.

- **Use a bike cover** – covers are another hassle for an opportunist thief. If they cannot see what moped or motorcycle it is, they are less likely to target it.

Recommendations

Insurance, lock and alarms testing standards:

<https://www.thatcham.org/>

Security products testing standard: <https://www.soldsecure.com/>

Central Registration and Identification Scheme: <https://www.cris.co.uk/>

Check your insurance policy for any further requirements.

WHW, please record your phone's IMEI # to assist police in case your phone is lost or stolen. IMPORTANT: Be aware that iPhone update iOS 15 will feature:

Locate when powered off: Locate your device using the Find My Network even after they have been turned off. This can help you locate a missing device that was low on battery power or that may have been turned off by a thief.

Locate after erase: The Find My Network and Activation Lock can locate your device even after it has been erased. To help ensure that nobody is tricked into purchasing your device, the Hello screen will clearly show that your device is locked, locatable and still yours.

Find My Network support for Air Pods: Use the Find My Network to get an approximate location of your missing Air Pods Pro or Air Pods Max. This will help you get within Bluetooth range so you can play a sound and locate them.