

Winchmore Hill Newsletter – April 2021

Dear Residents

Happy Springtime! Hopefully many of you have been vaccinated at least once by now. Thank you for doing your best to comply with the lock down rules. Fingers crossed we are well on our way to a more normal summer.

We welcome to our team PC Kelly Miller. She joined us late in January & will be with us until summer when she will transfer into the core response police team. We will then get another PC to take her place.

We have just had a knife point robbery in the wooded area of Grovelands Park. It was older teenagers stealing from younger ones. Please do not send your child into the park with expensive phones etc. We patrol it as much as we can.

The biggest problem our ward has right now in terms of volume crime is the theft of catalytic converters. Thieves are targeting any vehicle now which is vulnerable. Check your car. If its catalytic converter is exposed then get a Catloc fitted. This plate is usually enough to send the thieves elsewhere. This is a huge problem everywhere. Unfortunately this crime only takes a couple of minutes so police often arrive moments after the thieves have fled. Do not confront the thieves as they are often armed with baseball bats. Do ring 999.

Remember to use an old expired bank card to make sure the cash

machine has not been tampered with. Machines that are set up to steal your PIN will not return your card. If this happens to you, do not leave the machine. Ring police and ask someone to get the manager if possible. Be wary of the person directly behind you.

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

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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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March saw a total of 90 crimes reported.

REPORT for MARCH:

Residential burglary: 1

Attempted burglary: 2

Distraction burglary: 0

Commercial burglary: 2

Theft from m vehicles: 19

Theft of m vehicles: 6

Vehicle interference: 1

Theft of bicycles: 0

Theft from a person: 0

Other theft: 3

Robbery of a person: 0

GBH: 1

ABH: 3

Possession of cannabis: 1

Production cannabis: 1

Domestic related: 7

MARCH 2021

Burglary

Woodland Way 12/03/2021 2pm
Attempted burglary Covid masked suspect is seen on CCTV trying door handle with gloved hand. Circulated on Nextdoor.

Beechdale 02/03/2021 8:40pm
Attempted burglary. 2 men tried to force front door. Police attended/ suspects had fled.

Lakeside Road 31/03/2021 Burglary in a flat in Fairweather Ct. Suspect known to victim.

Motor Vehicle Crime

Sainsbury's Car Park 04/03/21 at 1140am victim was distracted at her car by a smartly dressed male with curly hair asking for directions. She later noticed her purse was gone.

Farm Rd 05/03/21 6:30pm a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Meadowcroft Rd 05/03/21 6:40pm a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Orpington Rd 05/03/21 8:35pm a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Fernleigh Road 08/03/21 8:40pm a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Queens Avenue 26/02/21-02/03/21 a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Avondale Rd 09/03/2021 a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

The Spinney 10/03/2021 silver Ford Transit van stolen vrm SP67WWY

Hill House Close 09/03/2021 a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Farm Rd 10/03/2021 white Ford Transit van stolen vrm EF15ZDX

Fox lane 11/03/2021 after midnight two cars had their windows smashed

Wades Hill 13/03/2021 9:15pm a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Pellipar Close 17/03/2021 a van was broken into & tools stolen

Hoppers Road 18/03/2021 a van was broken into & tools stolen

Woodland Way 18/03/2021 a van was broken into & tools stolen

Lakeside Road 19/03/2021 a car was broken into & disabled badge stolen

Downes Court 19-21/03/2021 a black Mercedes CLK vrm PBY784 was stolen

STRATFIELD PARK CLOSE

20-27/03/2021 a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

Cosgrove Close 21/03/2021 number plates stolen from a car in Cosgrove Close

Barber Close 26/03/2021 a catalytic converter was stolen from a car

HAZELGREEN CLOSE

27/03/2021 a black Land Rover Velar was stolen

BURFORD GARDENS

28/03/2021 0400am items stolen from a car (no damage)

Grovelands Road 31/03/2021 08:45am a grey BMW X3 was stolen

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 is gone. The bank has shut this branch. 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.

Public meeting points: ALL CURRENTLY CANCELLED

Park Run

Your local Winchmore Hill Police team partake in our local Grovelands Parkrun event every 5th Saturday. Come and 'run with a copper' or come talk to us. JUNE 26 ought to be the next time we are at Parkrun! Parkrun restarts tentatively on June 5th.

#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

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
PC Kelly MILLER
PCSO Antony RIVAS

We can be contacted on: 0208 721
2681

Or email us:

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