



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Royston Rural Watch, August 2021

PC Mark Ellwood 371 & PCSO 6531 Penny Tomsett,
PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522

Sgt Jon Vine 1841



*Our Non -
Emergency
Number 101*

On the Beat –

.Operation Feline returns to tackle ‘cat’alytic converter crime

- Drivers reminded to get catalytic converters marked
- Free security marking offered to Herts drivers
- Catalytic converter thefts continuing across the county

Hertfordshire Constabulary is reminding drivers that they can get free catalytic converter marking, as part of Operation Feline, to help drivers protect their vehicles



Catalytic converter thefts have continued this year, with thieves targeting the units due to the valuable metals they contain and can be removed fairly quickly.

Operation Feline aims to help drivers protect their catalytic converters and provide practical crime prevention advice to help deter thieves.

As part of the campaign certain garages across the county are offering free security marking services.

Inspector Nicki Dean, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Reduction Unit, said: "Thieves particularly target specific hybrid models, such as the pre-2008 Honda Jazz, Toyota Prius (2004-2016) and Toyota Arius (2012-2018).

"We are reminding drivers that we are still working with local garages to offer free security marking. So far we have marked close to 1000 vehicles since the launch of Operation Feline in 2020. We would also urge the public to follow our advice, remain vigilant and report incidents of suspected catalytic converter theft, particularly where people are trying to get under cars in public car parks or on public roads. If you see this happening, please call 999 immediately."

Details of the security marking scheme can be found on our Operation Feline pages.

In order to minimise the chance of becoming a victim we offer the following advice:

- Lock your car whenever it is left unattended and keep it in a garage when parked at night if possible.
- When using a garage is not possible, park close to fences, walls or a kerb with the exhaust being closest to the fence, wall or kerb to make theft difficult.
- Consider fitting CCTV on your home or driveway, to help deter thieves.
- Use PIR or LED security lighting to make your vehicle more visible and this can also act as a deterrent.
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, consider having the bolts welded to make removal difficult.
- Fit protective coverings on catalytic converters, such as the Toyota manufactured CATLOC device, (these are made for Toyota Prius made between 2004 and 2009) as these can make it much more difficult for thieves.
- Have your catalytic converter etched or forensically marked, and put stickers in the windscreen to say this has been done.
- Look for car parks with a Secured Car Park sign which have recognised levels of security. If you have a garage at home, ensure you use it and lock it properly.
- Noisy gravel on your drive can help deter a would-be thief, as they don't want to alert you to their approach.

- Never leave valuable items or tools on display in your vehicle as this may encourage a thief to break in.

How you can help protect your local heritage sites

- There are more than 100 Grade One Listed building in Hertfordshire.
- Sadly they can be a target for thieves.
- Members of the public are being urged to help police protect these important sites.



Did you know there are more than a hundred Grade 1 Listed buildings in Hertfordshire, with 41 in East Herts alone?

These buildings are of great national importance and value, and it is vital we protect them.

You are able to find your local heritage sites on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), which also identifies scheduled ancient monuments alongside the locations of all listed premises.

Sadly, these buildings are vulnerable to heritage-based crime, such as anti-social behaviour and theft of materials and valuables.

The price of lead and copper has risen over the past few years, meaning that heritage buildings are often targeted for thefts of these metals. In order to prevent these crimes, and catch those responsible, police need your help.

You can help just by educating yourself around the location of your local heritage sites and keeping a closer eye on them whilst going about your daily business.

You can also sign up to Heritage Watch. This would enable you to be kept up to date with any police activity regarding your local heritage sites. If you would like to sign up, please email PC Amy Griggs with your name and expression to get involved.

If you have any suggestions, or comments in relation to heritage-based crime, you can let us know via our anonymous community voice feedback platform

'echo'. We would love to hear what you think we could be doing and how you believe communities can help to protect these sites.

If you believe you have witnessed suspicious activity around a heritage site or have information about a crime, please call the non-emergency number 101 or report online. If you see a crime in progress, please dial 999 straight away.

Keep your home secure this summer

- Residents warned to make home secure when leaving them empty
- Burglaries likely to increase as people return to work and take holidays
- Making homes looked lived in deters burglars

As many residents are likely to be taking a summer holiday in the coming weeks, Hertfordshire Constabulary is reminding people to make sure their homes are secure when they are away.

Holiday preparations rarely include thinking about if your home is going to be safe while you are away. If you are planning to leave your home empty, even for a short break, it could be the opportunity a burglar is looking for. Giving your home a lived-in look by using timers on lights is a great way to put criminals off.

Remember that sharing your holiday plans on social media posts can also tip off burglars that your home is going to be empty, so make sure your security settings only let people you know see your posts.

If you are at home through the summer, make sure that you don't leave doors or windows open when you leave the house or go to another part of the house or into the garden, even when it is hot. Burglars can take advantage of insecurities in the home or outbuilding and garages.

Inspector Nicki Dean, from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Reduction Unit, warned: "Burglaries decreased during the recent lockdowns but now that people are starting to leave homes empty again, they are starting to increase. If you leave your home empty for a holiday or just a day trip, burglars will look for signs of an unoccupied home, like unopened letters at the front door, bins not put away or drawn curtains during the day. Making it appear that your home is occupied can be the most effective deterrent against burglary.

"Posting pictures or information about your holidays, or checking in at a venue on social media can also tip off criminals so make sure your privacy settings only allow friends to see your posts and photos."

There are many ways to give your home a 'lived-in' look when it's unoccupied, so that any would-be criminals aren't tempted:

- Close and lock all windows, doors and outbuildings.
- Don't publish your absence on the Internet. Status updates, comments and photos can all give away the fact that your home is empty.
- Use timer switches for lamps so that they turn on as it gets dark in the evenings. You could also use a timer switch for a radio (always follow manufacturer's instructions).
- Ask your neighbour to put your rubbish or recycling bins back if they're being collected whilst you're away – if they're left out after collection day it could indicate to a passing thief that your house is unoccupied. Be a good neighbour and do the same for them.
- If you aren't leaving your car at home, ask a neighbour/friend to park their car on your drive.
- Don't forget to cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc.
- Consider moving enticing items, such as laptops and mobile devices, so that they are out of sight.
- You could store valuables in your loft when you go away.
- If you are away for a longer period of time in the summer months, ask your neighbour to cut your grass. This helps to show that the house may be occupied.
- You could also ask someone you trust to help give your home the lived-in look by opening and drawing the curtains, taking in any free newspapers and moving your mail away from the letterbox.
- All these tips can help to give your home the 'lived-in' look.

Local Crime Information

G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote

Criminal Damage, Caldecote – On the 29th July overnight the church in Caldecote was damaged. The offenders have gained entry and smashed windows, emptied bottles of bleach and smashed crockery at the location.
41/58224/21

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

Burglary, Therfield – Over period of a few months a property which was being used as a second home was broken into and damaged. A small glass

window was damaged along with a side door lock. The water tank was damaged causing a leak in the property. 41/50122/21

Criminal Damage, Smiths End, Barley - On 15th July a contractor was digging with an excavator. Whilst the machinery was being operated, stones were thrown by two teenage boys at the digger causing a window to smash. The two offenders ran towards the village. 41/57709/21

G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston

Burglary, A507, Clothall - On 5th July at 10.15 the offenders forced a wooden front door to gain entry. Once inside the offenders targeted cash and jewellery and left via the back door. Please note this vehicle was seen leaving a burglary in east herts just prior this burglary occurring. The vehicle was tracked using ANPR systems and was eventually stopped by Police in Henlow. Two men were arrested for this offence. 41/5100/21

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