

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2022.



Throughout the year I have constantly warned communities and their councils of the typical crimes they face especially now on the run into Christmas. With Xmas shopping well underway both by internet and traditional shopping, criminals will be looking to exploit opportunities. We must collectively match those efforts. Theft from Vehicles, sheds, garages, and any form of external storage remain at risk.

We need now to look at the additional risks as we approach Christmas. Below is the campaign I will be running.



CHRISTMAS CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

The most important feature of my crime prevention work is to try to anticipate where you will be vulnerable in the coming weeks especially, as the run into the Christmas period is well and truly with us.

I will start our work by featuring the areas where I feel we will be vulnerable, and where we can work to prevent an “avoidable and preventable crime” Criminals will up their game in coming weeks and our crime prevention must firstly match that and then better that.

- 1. Thefts of internet shopping deliveries from doorsteps. Vans are followed.**
- 2. Storage of Christmas items in outside storage like sheds and garages.**
- 3. Thefts from Vehicles, especially when Christmas shopping, even in shopping centre car parks.**
- 4. Thefts on Christmas day. Children’s presents left outside properties.**
- 5. Care with online cash sales and purchases from persons collecting at your door.**
- 6. Care with purchasing dogs and cats from online adverts - SEND NO MONEY. (And remember a dog is not just for Christmas!)**

1. THEFTS OF INTERNET DELIVERIES FROM DOORSTEPS

The trend of these thefts is seen on routine crime reports however as we move towards Christmas and especially events like Black Friday sales, the risk increases. Please try to make safe delivery arrangements for your parcels. Firstly, you are at risk of a passing “chancer and opportunist” seeing the parcel sitting there, but secondly if criminals follow the delivery vans the risk increases.

2. SHED THEFTS

Now we all know that Father Christmas stores some presents in sheds from prying eyes. Sometimes we store our extra Christmas drinks and alcohol there. Many sheds are just not secure enough.

Criminals know this and so must we.

It is no good storing thousands of pounds of items with a nail keeping the door closed. Please just consider security and risk.

3. THEFTS FROM VEHICLES.

We all know that we should leave nothing on show whatsoever when parking our vehicles especially last park up at night.

At Christmas we shop and return parcels to the car and then go again shopping or ideally for lunch!! Criminals know this!

When going away for Christmas especially travelling early on Christmas morning, we tend to load the car the night before. Criminals know this!

Better to get up 30 minutes earlier and load rather than the night before.

I hope these tips may just make you think. Take a few moments and risk assess your actions. We all make mistakes especially under pressure and in a hurry.

Take a few moments to stay safe and secure.

4. THEFTS CHRISTMAS DAY

Crime prevention is easier Christmas day if it is pouring with rain and a dark dingy day from dawn to dusk, however a typical good Christmas morning is cold and crisp with a clear blue sky. Approximately 0900hrs front doors burst open and children with every form of toy and Christmas present burst into the community. Bikes, scooters, skates, skateboards, footballs, kites every form of toy delivered by Father Christmas is out and in use.

About 1400hrs the dreaded call comes to children "Christmas dinner" and reluctantly children enter their homes, and all those gifts are often laid in front gardens and paths whilst children gulp down Xmas dinner hoping to return to the gifts they have enjoyed.

Criminals know this and the exact times and will just travel around in vans and pick up the bikes, scooters etc.

This was a classic theft last year. It is more of a risk on estates and developments with easy access and egress **BUT** I urge care and security anywhere, even my rural areas.

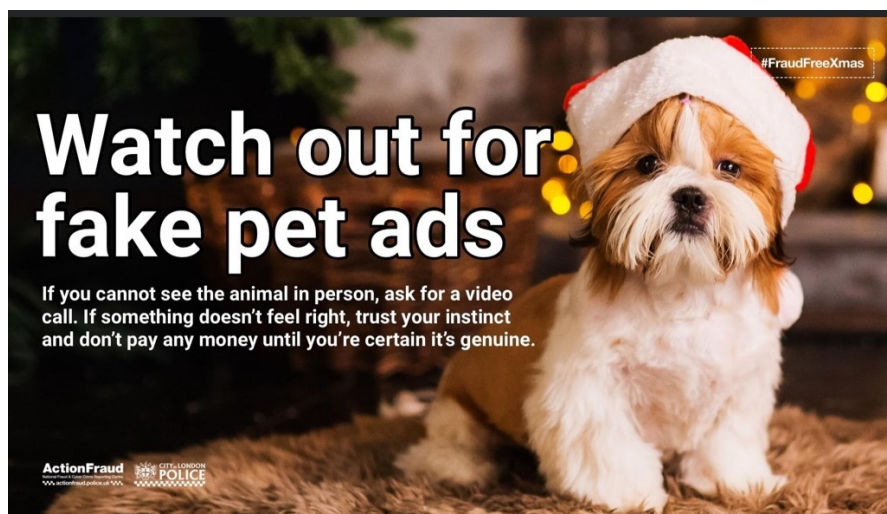
5. PURCHASES/SALES FROM or by EBAY/ONLINE MARKET PLACES

Great care please with internet shopping purchases and payments and a worrying trend in recent years has been if you are selling something and a purchaser says they will come to your property and pay cash. There have been incidents where items have been grabbed and residents assaulted, and the buyer has a made off.

A car with its engine running and a driver in it with someone at your door paying cash is a worry. Asking to test a bike may mean it is never seen again. As we move into the run up to Christmas many criminal actions will occur. They adjust and adapt to situations and times of the year... and so must we!!

6. CARE PLEASE WITH PURCHASING CATS AND DOGS FROM ONLINE ADVERTS

Please be extremely careful in responding to animal sales online. Never ever send a deposit after looking at an advert no matter how cuddly the animal looks. Once you send money it could end up that you will never set eyes on the dog or cat again.



FORWARD INTO 2023

Same again in 2023 but look to improve everywhere. Criminals will adapt and many of the challenges we face next year will throw up “business opportunities” for criminals. They will up their game and activities; we must fully match that with our crime prevention.

Our 2023 plan must be simple.

- 1 Carry out as much crime prevention work as we can to stop crimes occurring.
- 2 If a crime occurs can we work quickly to ensure there are no other victims in the area, and our adjoining areas.
- 3 Can we assist the police and my operational colleagues with any witnesses, information, CCTV, camera doorbell footage and or dashcam footage to help solve that crime and bring criminals to book.
- 4 Can we go again with crime prevention from the lessons learnt from that crime and investigations.
- 5 Can we continue to grow NHW across the District.
- 6 With all the above can we tackle the **AVOIDABLE** and **PREVENTABLE CRIMES**

“CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN A COMMUNITY THAT CARES and is ALERT and VIGILANT”





May I wish everyone and your families and wonderful Christmas and a very Happy Healthy New Year. A couple of photos above are my dogs Noah and Milo who help me enormously throughout the year engaging with dog owners to combat the trend of recent years with dog thefts.

The support of you the residents is essential in the Crime Prevention for the area. Without it the task would be impossible.

To join us email me on peternew1@aol.com

**My sincerest good wishes to you all
Peter**

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch



