



# Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch

www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk  
Email: all@hillingtonnhw.co.uk  
Tel: 020 8246 1869



**Police Non Emergency: 101**  
Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Ruislip Police Station: 020 82461825

## January 2017 Newsletter

Data from MPS Hillingdon

### Residential Burglaries =WEEK ENDING=

To contact your ward Local Neighbourhood Police Team, phone: **0208 721 followed by:**

- 2554 - Barnhill
- 2757 - Botwell
- 2551 - Brunel
- 2550 - Cavendish
- 2552 - Charville
- 2548 - E'cote & ERuis
- 2544 - Harefield
- 2557 - Heathrow
- 2553 - Hillingdon East
- 2543 - Ickenham
- 2549 - Manor
- 2545 - Northwood
- 2546 - Northwood Hills
- 2556 - Pinkwell
- 2011 - South Ruislip
- 2009 - Townfield
- 2782 - Uxbridge North
- 2758 - Uxbridge South
- 2018 - West Drayton
- 2547 - West Ruislip
- 2733 - Yeading
- 2713 - Yiewsley
- TOTALS**

	27 No	4 Dec	11 Dec	18 Dec
2	3	2	0	
4	0	1	2	
5	1	6	2	
0	1	1	3	
1	1	3	2	
4	1	4	6	
2	1	5	1	
1	5	4	3	
0	1	1	0	
2	1	2	1	
0	0	3	2	
1	2	3	3	
0	2	4	3	
4	1	4	0	
0	0	4	2	
1	1	2	2	
1	7	1	1	
6	2	3	1	
1	4	2	2	
1	3	1	3	
6	5	1	1	
0	6	3	2	
<b>42</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>42</b>	

**Unexpected callers** at your front door need to be carefully checked as they may not always be who they say they are. Do please act on the following advice when answering the door to strangers:

- **LOCK** - make sure **all** your doors are locked. Some bogus callers might distract you at the front door whilst an accomplice is at the rear of your property.
- **STOP** - are you expecting someone? If not, look through the peephole or window to check who is at your door.
- **CHAIN** - before answering the door, put the door chain on (if you don't have one, it's a good idea to purchase one).
- **CHECK** - with the door chain on, ask for an identity card. Take the card and check that the number is correct by comparing it on the company's website or in the yellow pages, for example.

**Scam – Lloyds Bank customers** should be on the lookout for a new sophisticated fraud that involves fraudsters sending fake bank letters. The convincing letters being sent are a replica template from Lloyds and include their logo address and signature from a customer service representative. The letter tells recipients that there have been some "unusual transactions" on their personal account and asks them to call a number, highlighted in bold, to confirm they are genuine. When victims call the number, an automated welcome message is played and the caller is asked to enter their card number, account number and sort code, followed by their date of birth. Victims are then instructed to enter the first and last digit of their security number. The fraud was spotted by the Daily Telegraph who was alerted to it by a reader who had received three identical letters sent to an office address. On separate occasions the Daily Telegraph ran some tests using fake details and were passed onto fraudsters who claimed to be from a Lloyds contact centre. The bank has confirmed that the 'phone number and letters are fake. To report fraud and cyber crime call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-fraud>

**Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch** is supported by Hillingdon Community Trust and the London Borough of Hillingdon

**Keep in Touch**  
Co-ordinators and neighbours, please keep in contact on the HNW telephone number above, via email or write to us at Ruislip Police Station, 5 The Oaks, Ruislip HA4 7LE. Our website also contains further information on topics in this newsletter [www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk)



**Thinking of selling your house in the near future?** If so, read on. A recent newspaper article highlighted the ease at which criminals can look at properties from the comfort of their armchairs, or, when they are out and about, with a quick search on a smartphone app. When people put their homes on the market it seldom occurs to them that they are actually giving burglars a guided tour of their home. With floorplans and photographs readily available on property websites, a thief is able to gain confidence on how to move through a house. So what can you do to protect your property without affecting potential sales? Here follows some useful advice:

- **Photographs** – ask the agent to avoid pictures that would give too much away or tempt thieves. Avoid shots that reveal anything worth stealing, the location of security alarm and sensors, or the inside of the garage – a common break-in point. Do not photograph anything that may give away personal information – a family calendar in the kitchen, for instance, or school 'photos of children. If in any doubt approve the photographs before they are posted on the internet.
- **Viewings by potential buyers** – confirm with the agents that the identities of all viewers will be checked before they enter the property and that they will be accompanied during the tour. After potential buyers have looked around, double-check that all windows and doors are still locked – some criminals will feign interest in the property in order to locate and unlock a window or door through which they can enter later. Make sure that no keys are left in locks that could be taken.
- **"For Sale" signs** – if you live alone, or are alone in the property for most of the day, it may be wise not to have a sign outside so that you don't have "buyers" turning up at the door asking to see inside. Make sure this is agreed as part of the contract with the Estate Agent before signing.
- **Theft** – bear in mind that although sellers often believe that estate agents will protect their possessions during viewings, they are not liable for thefts. The advice is to put **anything of value** up in the **loft**. The loft is regarded as the safest place in the house since no thief will venture up there as there is no means of escape should they be disturbed.
- **Burglar alarms** - during the period of viewings be extra vigilant at activating your alarm whenever you leave the house unoccupied and, of course, overnight. If possible set a separate user PIN for the Estate Agent and remind them to ensure that this is not revealed to prospective buyers.

Welcome to the new watch in Windmill Hill (E'cote & E Ruis). Do look on our website for further useful information and offers available to watch members.

**BE AN ACTIVE GOOD NEIGHBOUR,  
BE ON WATCH AND  
BE ON A WATCH**