

Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch

www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk
Email: all@hillingdonnhw.co.uk



ActionFraud: 0300 123 2040
www.actionfraud.police.uk

May - June 2021

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 via email, as shown
above.

Our website also contains
further information on topics
in this newsletter
www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk

To contact your ward Local
Neighbourhood Police Team,
telephone:

Barnhill	020 8721 2554
Botwell	020 8721 2757
Brunel	020 8721 2551
Cavendish	020 8721 2550
Charville	020 8721 2552
E'cote & ERuis	020 8721 2548
ToHarefield	020 8721 2544
Heathrow Vill	020 8721 2557
Hillingdon E	020 7161 8171
Ickenham	020 8721 2543
Manor	020 8721 2549
Northwood	020 8721 2545
Northwood	020 8721 2546
Pinkwell	020 8721 2556
South Ruislip	020 8721 2011
Townfield	07843 291091
Uxbridge North	020 7161 8170
Uxbridge South	07717 733782
West Drayton	020 8721 2018
West Ruislip	020 8721 2547
Yeading	07766 991019
Yiewsley	020 8721 2713



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Summertime Security: As the weather improves and Covid-19 restrictions ease, many of you will be taking full advantage of your gardens to relax and entertain friends and families. Although warmer weather encourages us to open windows throughout the house to aid ventilation, whilst we enjoy that barbecue in the garden, it only takes a moment for the opportunist thief to take advantage of lax security in the front of the house. Your **front door and windows** should be securely locked whilst you are elsewhere in your property.

The further easing of Covid restrictions may tempt you into booking that long-delayed **holiday**, despite the limits on destinations imposed by the "traffic light" system. Here follows a reminder of our usual advice to avoid the scammers:

- Book your holiday through a reputable company which is a member of a recognised travel authority, e.g. ABTA.
- Be wary of booking websites that appear high up in a search engine but have not been in business long. Search a site's name, plus the word "scam" to see if anyone has reported fraud.
- Ensure that email addresses are genuine. By clicking on the address, the full name will appear – if bogus, a bizarre string of words and letters will appear.
- If renting a private villa or apartment, call the owner or agent to check its authenticity, obtain the full address and check it out on Google Maps.
- Pay only by credit card and on a web page which has the https:// prefix and padlock in the browser window.
- Take out holiday insurance at the time of booking. Check that insurance covers fraudulent bookings, also cancellation owing to Covid-19.
- Report any scams to Action Fraud – see top of page.

With the maximum **contactless card payments** rising to £100 later in the year from the current £45.00, cards will be even more valuable to thieves. Advice is to:

- **Avoid** keeping cards in an "easy to access" pocket or bag. Consider taking just one card on a night out to limit losses.
- **Never** hand over a card to a cashier or waiting staff – ask them to bring the card reader to you. This reduces the risk of a card being skimmed and cloned.
- **Always** check the amount you have been charged and ask for (and keep) the receipt. Checkout staff do not automatically issue one for contactless payments.
- **Be aware** that when using contactless cards at a vending machine or on a bus or train, no receipt is issued. Check your bank statement to ensure that the correct payment was taken.
- **Guard** against a card's details being skimmed whilst still in your possession by lining a wallet or cardholder with tinfoil which will block any radio frequency signals to and from the card. Alternatively, buy a custom-made anti-fraud wallet.
- **Act fast** if a card is lost or stolen so that the provider can cancel it. Keep emergency phone numbers for each card in a safe, handy place.
- **Check** bank and card statements regularly for suspicious transactions.
- **Review** your credit report periodically to help spot any unusual activity, If you do fall victim to fraud, some credit reference agencies can help repair any damage to your credit history.
- **Consider** asking your provider for a **non-contactless** card if you prefer to avoid the technology. Not all providers will do this but even if they do, you will have to make a specific request for the facility.

Residential burglary
figures for Month
Ending as shown –
figures extracted
from the MPS Crime
Data Dashboard

	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021
Barnhill	2	2	3
Botwell	6	7	5
Brunel	7	5	3
Cavendish	0	0	0
Charville	6	3	4
E'cote & E. Ruislip	3	8	7
Harefield	3	2	1
Heathrow Villages	8	4	4
Hillingdon East	2	7	0
Ickenham	7	0	3
Manor	2	0	3
Northwood	3	2	2
Northwood Hills	9	5	4
Pinkwell	2	2	2
South Ruislip	2	2	1
Townfield	7	7	5
Uxbridge North	3	5	3
Uxbridge South	6	3	0
West Drayton	5	6	6
West Ruislip	3	2	2
Yeading	4	3	3
Yiewsley	3	3	5
TOTALS	93	78	66

Catalytic Converter theft continues unabated. Remember that thieves have to use trolley jacks in order to lift your vehicle in order to steal the converter. Here are some preventative measures for your consideration to avoid this theft occurring:

- Contact your vehicle dealership about fitting a manufacturer approved product to prevent the converter being removed.
- Etching the converter with a serial number can help police track it and reduce opportunities for thieves to sell it
- Install a Thatcham approved alarm that activates if the vehicle is lifted or tilted.
- If you can, park your vehicle in a locked garage or well-lit street as close to your home as possible.
- If you have a driveway park the vehicle against a wall/garage door and consider installing CCTV and “dusk-to-dawn” lighting covering the area.

Need a locksmith? Always apply the same principles when finding a locksmith as you would when finding any other trader – NEVER, EVER use someone who calls at your front door. Do your research properly by getting recommendations of local tradespeople whom you know have done a good job elsewhere. Check whether their profession has a professional body – The Master Locksmiths Association is the one to approach to see if the trader you have contacted is registered. As always, obtain more than one quote for the work required. LBH Trading Standards has recommended a useful article by WHICH? which outlines poor workmanship by rogue locksmiths. You can access this at:

<https://conversation.which.co.uk/scams/rogue-locksmiths-fraud-reporting/>

A case of **postal interception** occurred recently whereby a postal worker had mail stolen whilst effecting delivery to the addressee. Fortunately, the perpetrator has now been arrested, thanks to CCTV coverage. You can minimise your own risk of fraud by:

- Always **shredding** items bearing name, address and financial details before recycling
- Ensuring that **external letterboxes** are secured well and hard to open without a key. Empty it daily.
- Fit doorstep **CCTV** specifically covering your front door or letterbox and approach area.
- Remove your **name** from telephone directories by contacting your service provider.
- Ensure that your details do not appear of the searchable **open electoral register** by using the Government “Register to vote” service: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> even if you have already registered to vote.
- Check your security settings on **social media** – your date of birth can be very easy to discover.
- Use a **search engine** to look for your own name and address or phone number online – if it appears then you can contact the body responsible and ask for those details to be removed.

OWL, used by the Police and NHW to send out crime alerts and crime prevention advice directly to residents, now has **over 16,000 members** on Hillingdon alone! It is the only secure communications system in the UK that is Police approved under the “Secured by Design” scheme. We invite **YOU** to sign up to OWL **today** at: www.owl.co.uk – and if you’re already on OWL please sign up your neighbours.



Welcome to the new watch in **Kings Road** (Uxbridge South) which forms part of the existing Queens Road Watch.

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