



Stratford upon Avon SNT Newsletter

Avenue, Bishopton, Bridgetown, Clopton, Guildhall, Hathaway, Shotton, Tiddington & Welcombe

Date: Monday 14th September to Friday 9th October 2020

Stratford Town Safer Neighbour Team

Incidents of Interest:

14th September

Inc - WK-20200914-0001 – 12am. Town centre CCTV Operators spotted a break in occurring at the old BHS building in town. Officers were directed to the scene along with our Rural Crime Team. Due to the size and nature of the building Warwickshire Fire and Rescue were called to assist in searching the building with their specialist equipment. After 1 1/2 hours of searching no one was found and the search was called off. Around an hour later officers stopped by for a final check. 3 males were found inside and were arrested for Burglary.

17th September

Inc - WK-20200917-0066 – Overnight. A van parked on a driveway on Bishopton lane was targeted overnight. Offenders unknown cut a hole in the side door to gain access, nothing was taken from the van.

18th September

Inc - WK-20200918-0176 – Last week. A retail store on Bridge Street has notice their roof has been damaged a lead stolen from it. During the left lots of damage was caused including the chimney pushed over.

20th September

Inc – Various – Overnight. In the area of Maidenhead Road and Great William Street several cars were entered, and items stolen from within. On this occasion all of the vehicles were left insecure
Inc - WK-20200920-0236 – 3pm. A mountain bike was stolen whilst secured to a bike rack near to the leisure centre. Possible witness reported a black mini acting suspiciously next to the rack at the time of the theft, however no further details of the vehicle were obtained.

21st September

Inc – WK-20200921-0186 – Overnight. A van parked on Great William Street was broken into overnight, a laser measure and black jacket were stolen.

25th September

Inc - WK-20200925-0137 – Overnight. A Honda PCX125 moped was stolen from a secured bike lock on Arden Street by unknown means.

This newsletter is not a comprehensive list of crimes in the area but includes crimes and incidents that the local community should beware of. Staying vigilant and working together with the police and your local community can help to keep crime out of your area.

Community Forum Priorities

Our priorities are currently:

- Bike Theft - Town.
- Shoplifting – Town Centre
- Drug and Burglary Patrols

Future meetings and information, please contact: Ali Mainey on: alisonmainey@warwickshire.gov.uk



Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police support the activity of thousands of members of watch schemes. For more information regarding watch schemes in your area, including Neighbourhood Watch Sign up to our Community Messaging Service here: <https://cms.warwickshire.police.uk/register>

How to get in touch : Phone – 01789 444500 (your local SNT) Email - su.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk
Social Media – Twitter @StratfordCops. Facebook - @StratfordCops
Website www.warwickshire.police.uk

Non-emergency number 101. Only Call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Incidents of interest continued.

1st October

Inc - WK-20201001-0041 – Overnight. A vehicle parked in a car park on the Birmingham Road was broken into overnight, unsure if anything stolen at this time.

Inc - WK-20201001-0046 – Overnight. A van also parked on the Birmingham Road was broken into by cutting a hole in the side door. Several high value tools were stolen from within the van.

Inc - WK-20201001-0079 – Overnight. A further van was attacked overnight whilst parked on Hodgson Road. Offenders attempted to access the van by forcing a door but were unable to access the van.

2nd October

Inc - WK-20201002-0035 – Overnight. A vehicle has been entered whilst parked in the willows area. A set of glasses and some keys were taken from inside,

3rd October

Inc - WK-20201003-0432 – 10.50pm. A member of the public reported and RTC on the Warwick Road whereby the occupants of the vehicle were leaving the area with the damaged car left on the road. Response officers with the help of CCTV operators located the 2 passengers and requested the driver completed a roadside breath test. The driver refused to provide a sample of breath and was arrested for failure to provide a sample.

Appeal for witnesses to robbery – Stratford-upon-Avon

We are appealing for witnesses following a robbery in Stratford in the early hours of Monday morning (28 September).

The incident happened shortly after 12.30am outside the Waitrose store at the Rosebird Centre on Shipston Road.

It is reported that two men wearing balaclavas were acting suspiciously outside the store's cashpoint. A member of staff approached the men, who threatened him before pulling the cashpoint from the wall. The men made off on foot with the ATM's cashbox.

The first suspect is described as a white male, of large build, distinctively tall, wearing a balaclava and gloves, and carrying a dark coloured rucksack under his arm.

The second suspect is described as a white male, tall but shorter than the first suspect, wearing a balaclava, gloves and black trainers with a white line around the base.

While no arrests have been made, investigations are ongoing to establish the circumstances surrounding this incident and identify the two suspects, and officers have increased patrols in the area to offer reassurance to the community.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that could help with our investigation can report this to us via our website or by calling 101 quoting incident number 8 of 28 September 2020.

Alternatively, information can be provided anonymously to independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website.

Police urge residents to be vigilant and look out for suspicious vehicles that may be involved in courier fraud scams

Officers investigating a number of reported courier fraud incidents this week are urging the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious vehicles they see in their area which could be involved in these scams.

Courier fraud is when fraudsters claiming to be from the police, bank, HMRC or other official organisation call victims and ask them to withdraw or transfer money, or purchase other high value items such as gift cards for fraud reasons.

If the victim has withdrawn cash, they will often send a courier round to the victim's address to collect it. We believe these couriers are targeting certain areas, waiting in their vehicles until they get confirmation that the victim has withdrawn money to give to them so they can then go and collect it straight away.

Detective Inspector Rich Brown from Warwickshire Police said: "We have received a number of reports of courier fraud incidents this week that have occurred in Bedworth, Leamington, Rugby and Stoneleigh, and have seen some victims defrauded out of large quantities of money.

"We believe that the fraudsters may be targeting specific areas by contacting several victims in a particular area, and then waiting in their vehicle until they know the victim has withdrawn money for them to collect.

"If you notice a vehicle that perhaps you haven't seen in your area before acting suspiciously, I would urge you to get in touch and report this to us via our website or by calling 101. The more intelligence we receive, the more likely we are to catch those responsible.

"I would also encourage people to think about their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or any other elderly friends or relatives to make sure they know how to avoid scams such as these and what they can do if they have been a victim of a scam.

"These are despicable crimes that are understandably very upsetting for victims who are often left feeling that their security at home has been violated, and we will do everything in our power to bring offenders to justice."

The police or your bank will never:

- Contact you out of the blue and ask for your personal details, including your PIN number, password or account details
- Ask you to transfer money into another account for fraud reasons
- Ask you to withdraw cash and hand to someone for safe keeping
- Ask you to purchase high value items such as gift cards
- Send someone to your home to collect cash or other high value items, bank cards, account details or PIN numbers

Protect yourself

- If you are unsure whether someone on the phone is genuine, hang up and then use a different line to call the organisation they are purporting to be from using a number from the phonebook or internet to verify their identity
- Don't give out your personal information to anyone over the phone, including your PIN number and bank account or card details
- If you have given out your personal banking details to someone over the phone or have given someone your card details, contact your bank immediately to cancel your card

Where to go for help

If you receive a call from someone purporting to be a police officer and asking you to withdraw or transfer money, call Warwickshire Police on 101 – the more intelligence we receive, the more likely we are to catch those responsible

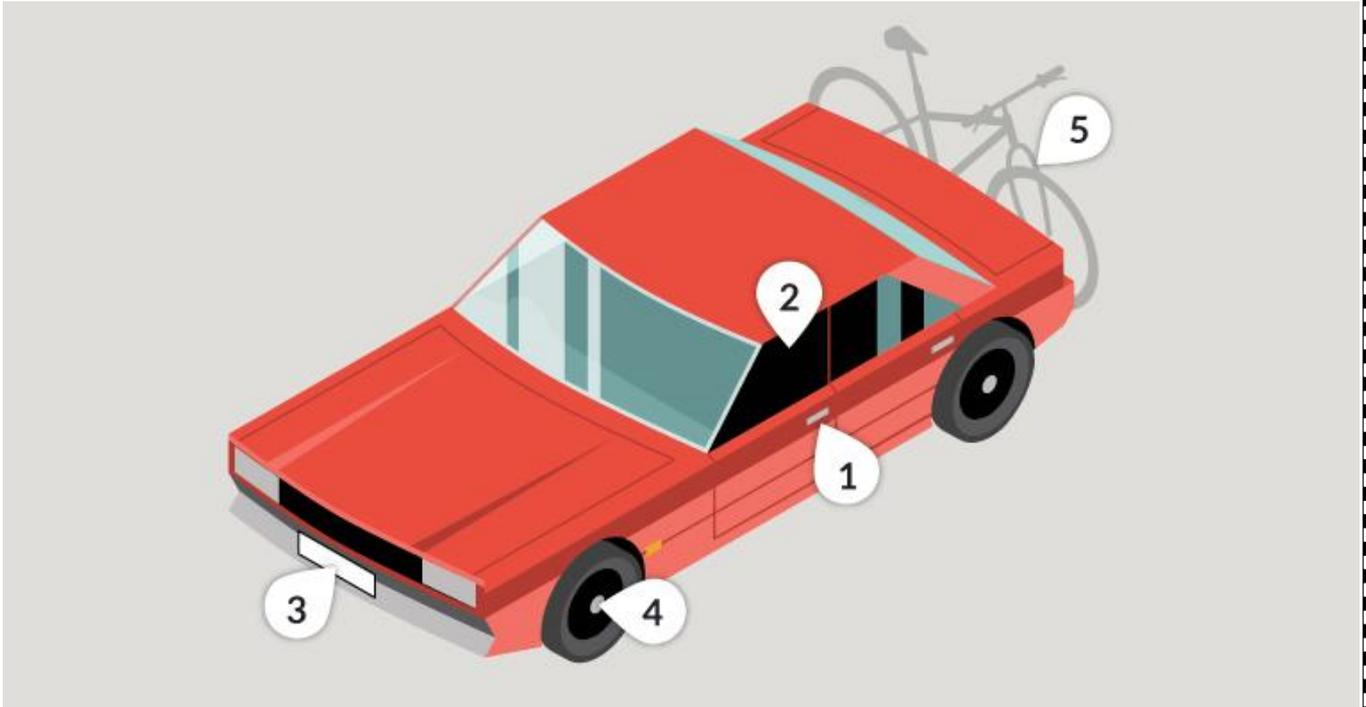
If you have been a victim of a telephone scam, please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via their website: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

For advice on scams, contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133

Always call 999 in an emergency

How to keep your vehicle safe and sound

Having your car broken into and losing your things to thieves can be very distressing. Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle, and what's in it, safe.



1. Always lock it

Fuelling up or popping back into your house to get something are perfect examples of how easy it is to turn your back for a moment and forget your vehicle is unsecured. So get into the habit of locking your vehicle even if you're only going to be away from it for a moment.

2. Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'

Leaving windows and the sunroof open invites fishing for items through the gap by hand or with, say, a bent coat hanger, which could also be used to unlock a door for them to get in. Thieves can be ingenious. Don't give them the opportunity.

3. Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws

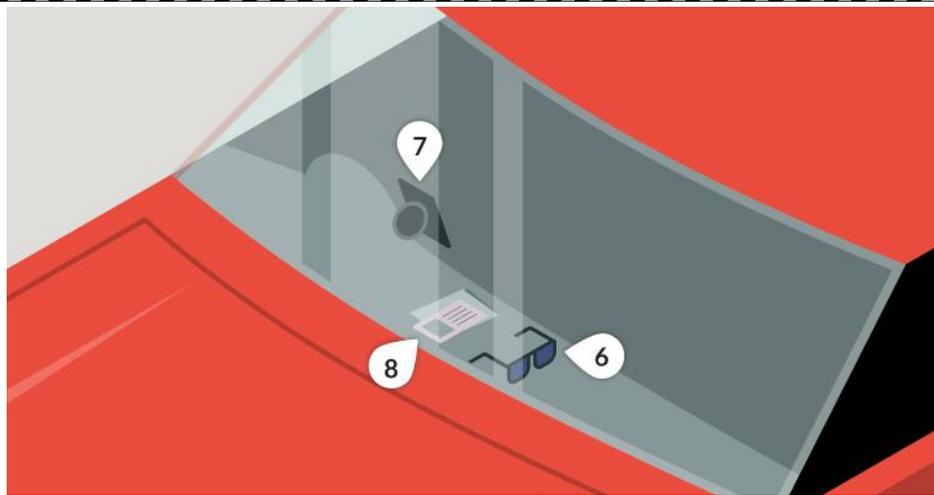
The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.

4. Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels

Stolen wheels are valuable, either as parts or for their scrap value. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.

5. Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle

Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it. For further information and advice, visit [Sold Secure](#).



6. Take it with you or hide it

Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. Remember, the cost of replacing a window is often much more than that of what's stolen. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle.

7. Hide electrical items and leave no clues

Leaving sat nav mounts, suction cup marks on windows or cables on view gives it away that you have left a Sat Nav, smartphone or other device in your car. Even if they can't see the Sat Nav or iPad they might still break in to see if it's stored in the car, out of sight.

8. Tool theft from vans

Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. If you have to leave tools in a van overnight, it's a good idea to mark them clearly with your name / company name and address using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Alternatively, you can use a variety of other property marking systems. Items that are clearly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on. Consider using a lockable cabinet within your van to store tools – a number of security rated products are available. Small cameras are also designed to record inside vehicles. Visit Secured by Design for more details.

You can also take photographs of items of value, make a note of the serial numbers and consider registering them online at a property register site.

9. Park in well-lit and busier areas

It can take less than 30 seconds to break into a vehicle. Parking in well-lit areas and busy streets increases the chances of a thief being seen, so they'll probably steer clear.



10. Take your documents with you

Having a vehicle's registration and insurance documents could let a thief pretend to be the owner. Which means they could sell it on quite easily. So, never leave any documents in the vehicle.

11. Choose your car park wisely

If possible, always try to park in well-lit and staffed car parks or those with a Park Mark safer parking award. To find one, simply check out [Park Mark here](#).