

SO safe newsletter



Safer Neighbourhood Team Old Town

Date February 2010

STEVENAGE
HOMES



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



Stevenage
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Welcome to the first edition of the OLD STEVENAGE newsletter for 2010. We hope that you all had a pleasant Christmas and new year and have a very happy 2010.

The New Year has started well. The STEVENAGE SNT were on operation ADAPT throughout January which consisted of night time patrols in the area to target the overnight crimes. We are pleased to report that we have seen a fall in the number of overnight vehicle offences in the Great Ashby and Old Town areas.

Please continue to remove all property from your vehicles when leaving them and make sure that they are left locked and secure.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On the 15th and 16th of March we will be running **Operation Saturnalia** in LANGTHORNE AVENUE. This is a crime prevention initiative where the local PCSOs will visit those households wishing to take part and offer them crime prevention advice. More information will be sent to those residents nearer the time.

We will be attending the OLD STEVENAGE neighbourhood forum on the 23rd February so please feel free to come and speak to us about any issues you wish to raise.

STREET MEETS

Street Meets will be taking place throughout the year. These are run by local PCSOs and are your chance to speak to your local police team and raise any issues you may have.

The dates for the next ones are:

24/02/2010 – Sainsburys - Coreys Mill

12/03/2010 – Old Town – High Street

24/03/2010 – Lister Hospital

The meets run from 1100 – 1400 hours.

PURSE DIPPINGS

We have been receiving a number of reports of people having their purses stolen from their handbags whilst shopping in the area. Please make sure that you take steps to safeguard your property when shopping. We would particularly ask you not to leave your bags unattended in trolleys when in the supermarkets as this is the most common way for this type of offence to occur. Offenders will wait until the owner of the bag is not looking or has left the trolley for a few moments and will quickly reach in and take the purse. If possible please keep your purse in a fastened pocket within your bag and keep your bag with you at all times.

Be aware of anyone bumping into you in shops and also of anyone who tries to distract you as they may be working as part of a group.

The OLD TOWN team will be at SAINSBURY'S COREY MILL over the next month with some purse guards and information to help prevent this sort of crime.

DRIVING IN WINTER

As the nights grow longer and the weather deteriorates motorists need to think of adapting the way they drive to match the road conditions. The risk of crashes and bumps can be reduced by driving slower, increasing distance between the car in front and by following the other guidelines included below:

Wet weather

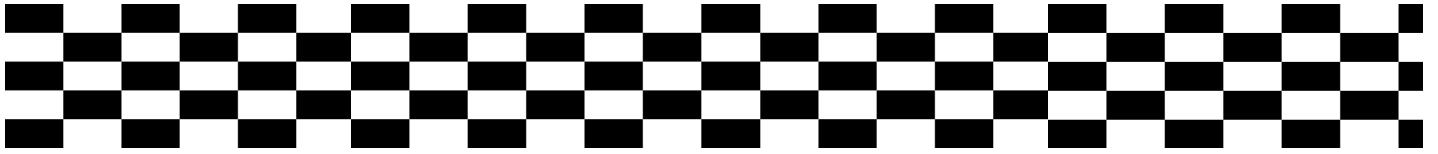
- In wet weather stopping distances are double that of dry roads so keep well back from the vehicle in front.
- Headlights must be used when visibility is seriously reduced, particularly when it is less than 100 metres.
- Turn on the windscreen wipers when overtaking as spray can be thrown up from the vehicle in front obscuring the windscreen.

Icy and snowy weather

- In icy weather stopping distances can be 10 times greater than dry roads.
- Watch out for snow ploughs and other vehicles which can throw out snow on either side.
- Be prepared for road conditions to change over a short distance.
- Drive slowly in as high a gear as possible, accelerating and braking gently. Go especially slowly on bends.
- Remember the sun can dazzle when reflected off the ice.

Fog

- Remember to use your lights.
- Use your windscreen wipers and demisters.
- You must not use your front or rear fog lights unless visibility is seriously reduced as they dazzle other road users and can obscure break lights.



Stevenage schools and Hertfordshire Constabulary
working together for a safer community

POLICE NOTICE

Stevenage Police are keen to protect local schools from burglars in the holiday period.

We are appealing to you as a member of the local community to ask for your assistance in keeping your local schools safe during the holiday period by simply reporting any suspicious activity to Stevenage Police via the control room telephone number of 0845 33 00 222.

If you are sure that a burglary is in progress then please do call our 999 emergency number.

NON EMERGENCY NUMBER

0845 33 00 222



By calling Crimestoppers you can pass on information about crime, anonymously.

Crimestoppers callers know what's going on but can't, or won't, walk into a police station. You may know the person involved, have overheard something you shouldn't, seen something and don't know what to do. Whatever it is you know something about a crime or a criminal, so tell us what you know, not who you are.

Crimestoppers key function is to ensure your information about crime reaches the police or other relevant authority. You won't be asked your name, nor to make a formal statement or to give evidence in court. But perhaps most importantly, because you've given information anonymously you needn't fear reprisals.

Even in this communications age picking up the phone is the easiest and the best way to pass on your information. Crimestoppers will never attempt to trace or record your call - not even for quality control or monitoring purposes. Crimestoppers do not have the facility to use 1471 to find a phone number. If you are at all concerned reassure yourself by dialling 141 before **0800 555 111** which blocks your phone number. *Or use a phone box - its free.*



Remember if the anonymity of one of the callers was made known it would destroy Crimestoppers as no one would feel they could trust us. This is why it is so important to us that Crimestoppers can guarantee your anonymity.

The most valuable information comes from a phone call. Our experienced call operators can make sure we have all the correct information, no opportunity for confusion over a name or address. Your information can therefore be used to best effect in solving crimes.

Reporting Crimes Online

You can report now information anonymously online. To visit the online reporting page use www.hertscrimestoppers.org.uk, remember crimestoppers is not an emergency service and if you see a crime taking place you should report it using the 999 system *immediately*.

EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGING

Please remember there is also a text messaging service for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or have other communication related difficulties. The number to text to is: **07786 207 091** and remember to state *who you wish to attend* (police, ambulance or fire etc), *where the problem is, what the problem is*. You will get a response from the police control room and that is your confirmation that text message has been received.

THE SAFE SCHEME

Hertfordshire is recognised as one of the safest counties in the England. However for many people it is the 'fear of crime' perception that can be just as damaging as being a victim. It can prevent individuals, in particular vulnerable and minority groups, from leading a full and active life in their communities.

The **SAFE** scheme covers central and northern Hertfordshire. The scheme provides a free service for people:

60 or over
Vulnerable
Housebound
Single parents



The scheme provides a home security service including the fitting of security measures, such as locks, door chains and spy holes.

Labour is free to other users and but there will be a charge for materials used. As well as the security measures the scheme offers a 'handyman' service to over 60's to help them maintain their comfortable home life. The scheme works in association with Herts Fire and Rescue service to provide free smoke alarms for those who do not have them.

For any other information please contact:

**The Project Manager, SAFE, 126 Great North Road,
Hatfield, Hertfordshire. AL9 5JZ.
Telephone: 01707 255711**

We are affected by burglary
Please do not be the next victim

Use the **SAFE** project

..... it could be **FREE**

CONTACT DETAILS

Hertfordshire Constabulary 24 hour non-emergency telephone number

0845 33 00 222

Call this number to report incidents, crimes and to speak with any officer or to get through the any department.

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999

An emergency is:

- If there is a risk of serious damage to property
- You suspect a crime is in progress
- If there is a risk of injury to a person
- If there is a serious incident that needs immediate police attendance

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