

# Mole Valley NHW News

February 2011  
Dorking Town  
PC Michelino Vaccaro  
PC Michael Mann



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## WARNINGS

Every year, we receive reports relating to thieves targeting cars left unattended and parked in beauty spots. Police carry out regular patrols at beauty spots and, whenever possible, we speak to vehicle owners and advise them about not leaving any items of value in their cars. When we do not get to speak with the vehicle owner but can see valuables clearly on view, we take the vehicle details and write to the owner to advise them of our concerns.

Over recent weekend patrols, officers spoke to a great many visitors to beauty spots and recorded details of well over 100 vehicles which had been left with valuables clearly on display and, in some cases; the cars were not even locked! This just makes the job of a thief even easier.

Normally, this problem tends to occur throughout the summer months but recently we have seen vehicles being targeted over the winter and well into this year. Smaller items, such as handbags and purses are being taken and you can imagine the inconvenience and distress this type of theft can cause.

A thief can gain entry to a vehicle very quickly and they know the most commonly used places where people leave items of value within the vehicle. These include the glove compartment, under the driver's or passengers' seat or on the rear foot well of vehicles and, of course, in the boot.

The more rural parts of our county can also present easy opportunities to would be thieves, particularly if vehicles are parked in more remote locations where they cannot easily be seen by their owners or passers by.

We would always advise people to take any items of value with them when leaving their car unattended. Also, before your journey it is worth considering if you actually need all the items that you normally keep in your car (laptop, camera, expensive tools etc). It's worth considering leaving the glove compartment open and the boot shelf removed, to show clearly that nothing of value is in the car. This may well help prevent your vehicle from being targeted.

When choosing a parking space, try to park in the most openly visible location and not tucked away out of easy view. It is these locations that will enable a thief to try car doors or even break in with less chance of being seen whilst doing so.

A locked vehicle may not prevent it being targeted but an opportunist thief will normally pick a vehicle that is unlocked and when items of value are on view. Please don't make it easy for thieves.

## THEFT OF PEDAL CYCLES

There has been an increase in theft of pedal cycles in Dorking town in the last couple of months.

There have been at least four thefts in January, including areas such as North Street, The High Street, and Chichester Close and outside Dorking Halls.

Cycle theft is a growing problem for cyclists everywhere and it is not a minor problem but of real concern.

The majority of cycles stolen, which are then later found or recovered by police are rarely returned to the owner as we can only identify property with a clear identification number or if it is property marked in some way.

There is a range of marking systems available on the market such as using a UV pen, engraving, etching, die stamping or security asset labels. Choose a technique that suits you and your cycle. Also, you can ask for advice from our Crime Reduction Advisor, Mike Bessent, who is happy to give free expert guidance and advice on any aspect of home, property or business security. Mike can be contacted on 01483 637410

UV pens can be obtained from Dorking Police Station if needed.

## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Over the past year there has been a decrease in youth anti-social behaviour in Dorking town. However, over the last month, groups of youths have been congregating again in St Martin's Walk car park. Whilst at the location they are skateboarding playing football making excessive noise to the annoyance of residents in the area.

Local officers have patrolled the area and moved on the youths. Details have been taken and any other offences have been dealt with. A Neighbourhood Issue has also been created to prioritise reported incidents in the area (MV/11/324).

## DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

In the last couple of months an elderly resident in Harrow Road East in Dorking has been burgled on three occasions. A male had originally attended her home address pretending to be from the water board company.

Police have arrested a male in connection with the burglaries and he has been charged.

Only call 999 in a genuine emergency requiring police attendance.

For all non-emergency policing matters and to speak to your local officers, please call 0845 125 2222 or 01483 571212

For more information please visit our website: [www.surrey.police.uk/molevalley](http://www.surrey.police.uk/molevalley)

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