

The Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood Neighbourhood Watch Group

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Newsletter



SPRING / SUMMER 2024

In this edition:

We send regular email details of burglaries and vehicle crimes, courtesy of Elmbridge police. We also have access to the underlying data for all neighbourhood crime, and so below is an update of *all* Neighbourhood crime types from Jan '20 to Dec '23, with a comparison between years and identifying trends.

John Haberfield

Crime map review

As before, our crime data is grouped by electoral wards. (*For anyone uncertain of the boundaries of the wards, there's a map at the end of this article*). To provide a reasonable comparison, we have reviewed data in the new format dating back to Jan 2021 and up to the latest available data.

First, to set the scene for crime rates, let's view how Elmbridge compares with the rest of Surrey.

TOTAL No. CRIMES IN JAN-DEC 2023 PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS	Violence and sexual offences	Anti-social behaviour	Public order	Criminal damage and arson	Other theft	Vehicle crime	Shoplifting	Burglary	Drugs	Other crime	Bicycle theft	Possession of weapons	Robbery	Theft from the person	TOTAL
Spelthorne	78	43	24	21	17	21	13	10	8	4	3	2	1	2	247
Woking	83	42	22	20	22	11	10	8	5	3	3	2	1	1	235
Guildford	75	35	23	18	17	14	20	8	5	4	2	2	1	2	226
Epsom and Ewell	62	35	19	14	17	29	13	10	5	3	4	2	2	2	215
Runnymede	70	35	19	16	18	18	10	7	10	3	2	2	1	1	212
Reigate and Banstead	69	32	17	16	13	12	12	7	4	3	1	2	1	1	192
Tandridge	55	32	16	17	13	13	6	8	4	3	0	1	1	1	171
Elmbridge	56	25	16	13	12	16	7	9	5	3	4	1	1	1	170
Mole Valley	55	24	17	15	13	11	13	7	3	3	1	1	1	1	163
Surrey Heath	55	28	14	12	13	10	11	6	3	4	1	1	1	1	160
Waverley	44	23	12	12	11	11	7	8	2	3	1	1	1	1	135
SURREY	64	32	18	16	15	15	11	8	5	3	2	1	1	1	192

An analysis (above), from the national crime data for Surrey for the full year 2023, reveals that, as with 2022, Elmbridge (*highlighted yellow*) had the 4th lowest overall crime rate out of the 11 boroughs in Surrey and the 3 boroughs with lower crime rates are more rural (Surrey Heath, Mole Valley and Waverley).

Of the 14 crime types (*highlighted orange*), the 4 highest rates were Violence & Sexual Offences, Anti-social Behaviour, Public Order, and Criminal Damage & Arson, accounting for 65% of the total crime.

These are also closely related as often what would otherwise be an ASB offence could easily become a violence offence (if the suspect pushes someone), or a public order offence (if the activities intimidate

innocent bystanders), or a criminal damage offence (if the activities result in something being damaged).

Looking at these 4 crime types combined provides much smoother crime trends. Within Elmbridge, Violence and Sexual Offences were rarely sexual and most violent crimes were common assault.

Next, let's compare the crime data for the 16 electoral wards within Elmbridge.

TOTAL No. CRIMES IN JAN-DEC 2023 PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS	Violence and sexual offences	Anti-social behaviour	Public order	Vehicle crime	Criminal damage and arson	Other theft	Burglary	Shoplifting	Drugs	Bicycle theft	Other crime	Possession of weapons	Robbery	Theft from the person	TOTAL
Walton Central	68.9	49.5	28.9	32.0	25.8	18.5	10.8	24.3	8.0	14.8	6.2	4.0	1.2	1.5	294.5
Cobham and Downside	94.8	59.7	26.5	25.2	15.1	17.8	6.5	22.2	4.9	1.8	3.7	2.2	1.2	2.8	284.3
Walton North	82.8	23.4	22.2	12.3	20.3	15.1	9.2	2.5	7.4	1.8	3.4	3.7	0.9	1.8	206.8
Weybridge Riverside	70.2	26.5	22.8	14.2	15.7	16.3	11.4	4.6	2.2	5.8	4.6	1.8	2.2	2.2	200.3
Molesey West	84.6	25.4	19.5	16.2	15.6	10.0	5.9	1.5	9.0	2.8	3.3	0.3	1.0	0.3	195.4
Hersham Village	76.9	25.4	20.0	13.8	10.8	13.1	8.5	9.2	3.8	3.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	187.3
Esher	58.7	27.2	14.4	12.6	14.9	11.3	12.6	10.3	6.4	1.3	5.4	1.5	0.5	0.8	177.7
Molesey East	42.8	23.7	18.8	17.5	11.7	10.8	10.5	7.7	8.9	4.9	3.1	1.2	0.3	0.6	162.5
Weybridge St George's Hill	41.0	22.3	12.3	21.3	13.8	18.5	12.8	8.5	2.8	2.6	0.8	1.3	0.5	1.0	159.5
Long Ditton	45.8	25.8	17.8	14.5	11.7	11.1	10.2	0.6	3.1	5.2	2.2	0.0	0.6	0.3	148.9
Walton South	56.2	20.8	14.6	13.1	9.7	10.8	6.4	4.4	5.6	2.1	2.3	1.0	1.5	0.3	148.7
Hinchley Wd/Weston Grn	35.8	13.1	7.7	20.0	11.5	9.6	9.6	8.8	2.7	3.5	2.7	0.8	0.8	0.4	126.9
Thames Ditton	38.5	15.7	11.7	12.3	9.8	8.0	11.4	0.3	3.4	8.9	1.8	0.3	1.2	0.0	123.4
Claygate	43.5	22.3	8.5	9.2	7.7	6.5	4.2	9.2	1.2	1.5	2.3	1.2	0.4	0.0	117.7
Oxshott / Stoke D'Abernon	25.6	14.9	6.4	11.8	4.6	12.6	9.2	0.0	2.8	0.3	3.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	92.8
Oatlands / Burwood Park	28.3	8.6	7.4	12.0	5.2	6.5	8.9	0.3	4.9	0.6	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	85.5
ELMBRIDGE	55.9	25.3	16.2	16.1	12.8	12.4	9.3	6.9	4.9	3.7	3.0	1.3	0.9	0.8	169.5

Analysis reveals that for almost all of the 14 crime types our NHW regional wards (East Molesey, Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green) were in the lower half of the table of high to low crime rates. West Molesey, for the first time, has crept above the Elmbridge average. As an example for comparison, the average rate of all crime across Surrey was 192 crimes, in the whole year, per 1,000 households. For Elmbridge it was 169.5, and for the wards mentioned above it varied from 195.4 (Molesey West) down to 123.4 (Thames Ditton).

In summary, Elmbridge has a very low crime rate and, apart from Molesey West, our wards within Elmbridge have even lower crime rates.

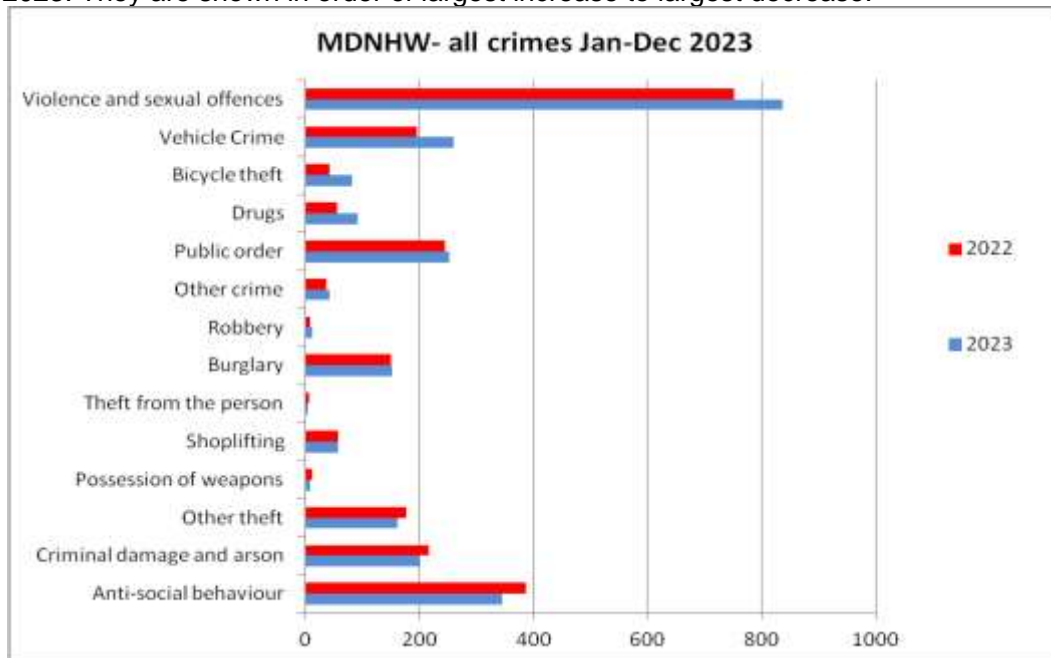
Now, we can compare crime data for 2023 with last year.

The table below shows, by ward, the variation in numbers of crimes between Jan-Dec '22 and '23, with crime types sorted from highest to lowest (top to bottom) numbers of crimes, for the MDNHW region as a whole. The next column shows, for comparison, the same figures for the whole of Elmbridge. The final 2 columns show the actual number of each crime in 2023, and the % of each compared to the total. Our region had a 7% increase in overall crime in 2023 compared to Elmbridge with an increase of only 1%.

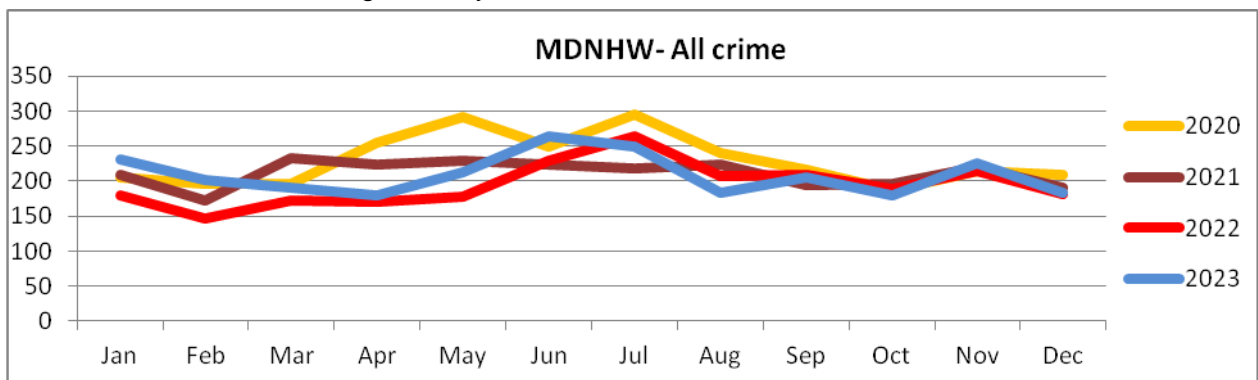
Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood (MDNHW Region) Variance in crimes Jan-Dec 2/23	Molesey West	Molesey East	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Hinchley Wood & Weston Green	MDNHW Region	Elmbridge	MDNHW Total Crimes 2023	MDNHW % of Total Crimes 2023
Violence and sexual offences	85	-20	-31	29	22	85	110	836	33.4%
Anti-social behaviour	-22	-18	-2	15	-15	-42	-219	345	13.8%
Vehicle Crime	26	19	6	5	7	63	207	259	10.3%
Public order	-4	8	3	3	-2	8	-45	253	10.1%
Criminal damage and arson	9	-15	-9	-10	7	-18	-29	199	7.9%
Other theft	2	2	-11	-6	-2	-15	-96	161	6.4%
Burglary	3	-6	-1	10	-5	1	-2	152	6.1%
Drugs	19	12	1	2	2	36	50	92	3.7%
Bicycle theft	6	5	12	11	5	39	16	82	3.3%
Shoplifting	2	-11	-1	-6	15	-1	81	57	2.3%
Other crime	-1	8	0	1	-2	6	13	43	1.7%
Robbery	4	-2	3	1	-1	5	2	13	0.5%
Possession of weapons	-5	1	-1	0	0	-5	11	8	0.3%
Theft from the person	0	-1	0	1	-1	-1	-12	5	0.2%
TOTAL	124	-18	-31	56	30	161	87	2505	

Some wards have fared better than others with the main increases being in Molesey West, Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, predominantly in violence and vehicle crime, although drugs have increased in Molesey and bicycle thefts in The Dittons.

The following table gives a better picture of how the various crime types have changed between Jan-Dec 2022 and 2023. They are shown in order of largest increase to largest decrease.



For a better idea of annual trends we need to look in comparison to previous years' crime rates. Although the overall crime rate started higher this year, it trended downwards, close to 2022 levels.

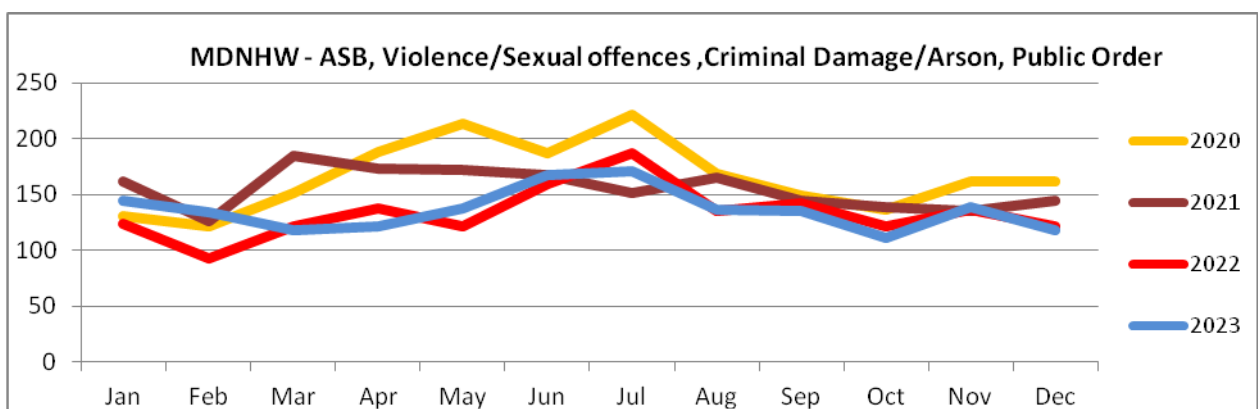


We saw (above) that in the whole of 2023 across Elmbridge, of the 14 neighbourhood crime types, 4 of the 5 highest rates were Violence and Sexual Offences, Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Public Order, and Criminal Damage and Arson, collectively accounting for 65% (two thirds) of the total crime.

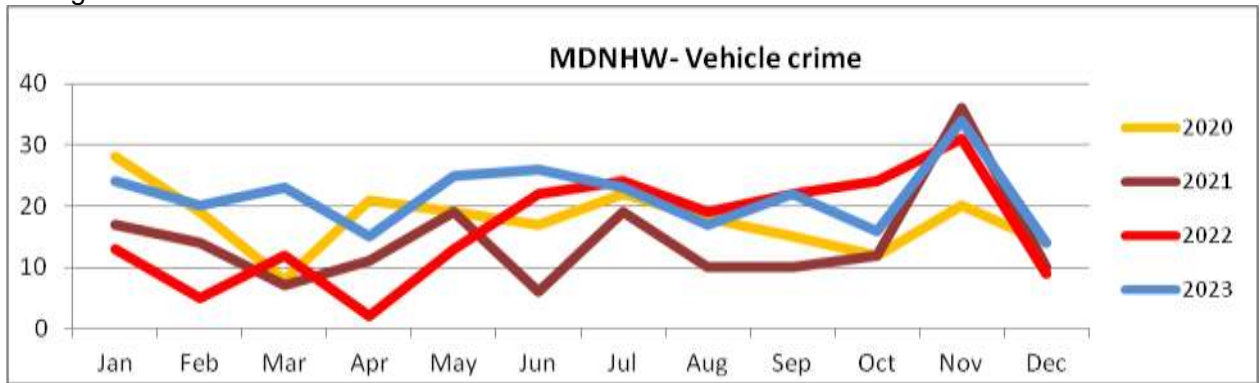
You see here the same trend as with total crime, suggesting that this is one main factor in that trend. Molesey West had raised violence crimes throughout the year, but back to 2022 levels in Q4. Similarly with criminal damage incidents, returning to 2022 levels in December.

Long Ditton had raised violence crimes throughout the year, still increasing in Q4, and raised ASB incidents throughout the year, but tracking at 2022 levels from September.

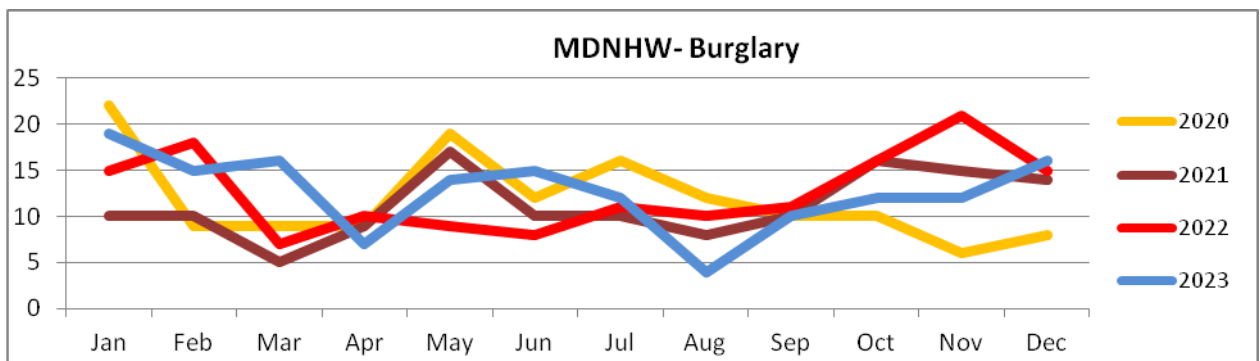
Hinchley Wood & Weston Green had raised violence incidents throughout Q1, and a peak in July, and with criminal damage crimes tracking near 2022 levels but raised in November/December.



The crimes that have the most impact on victims have been Vehicle Crime and Burglary, accounting for 10.3% and 6.1% respectively of the total crime in 2023. Vehicle crime is now the 3rd most frequent crime in our region, increasing above 2022 levels for all wards. However, this has been a trend across all of Elmbridge.



Burglary has increased by just 1% compared to 2022, all in Molesey West and Long Ditton, although offset by reductions in the other wards.



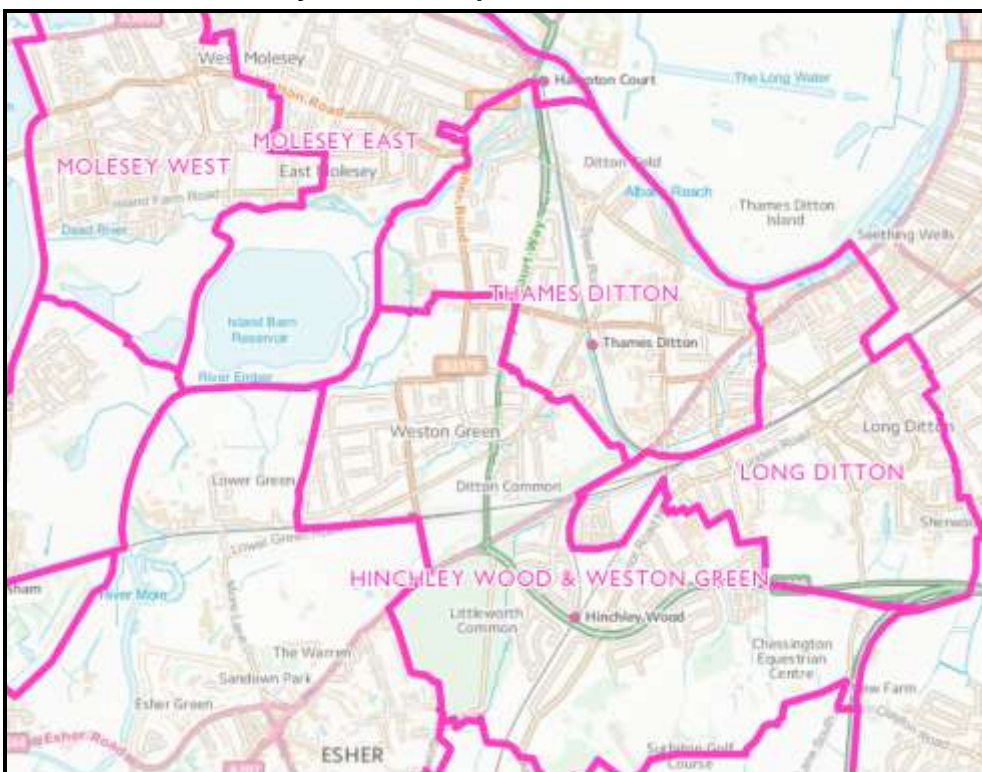
The other 8 crime types account for the remaining 18.3% of all crime, and only 3 of those show an increase in 2023 compared to the same period last year.

Bicycle Theft, accounting for 3.3% of total crime (+39), has increased significantly in Thames Ditton, and to a smaller extent in the other wards.

Drugs, accounting for 3.7% of total crime (+36), has increased in both Molesey wards.

Other Crime, accounting for 1.7% of total crime (+6) has increased in Molesey East.

From Ordnance Survey Election Maps



Election wards

It wasn't possible to capture the full map of our NHW region, but the northern border of Molesey West and Molesey East wards is the river Thames.

To see this map on-line, go to:

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

zoom in to your area, click on the 'BOUNDARY' button, scroll down and select 'Wards / District Wards' and click the 'Show names' button.

Numbers To Keep

IMMEDIATE POLICE RESPONSE 999
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101
Elmbridge Police Safer Neighbourhood Team
elmbridge@surrey.police.uk

To report a crime go to:
Surrey Police website www.surrey.police.uk

DESIGN OUT CRIME OFFICER (DOCO)
ANGELA CHRISTIE 01483 631632
Angela.Christie@surrey.pnn.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS (anonymous) 0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

ESHER POLICE STATION (Civic Centre) 101
Monday-Friday: 8:45am to 5:00pm

TRADING STANDARDS 08454 04 05 06
via Citizens Advice consumer service

ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY 01372 474398
Email: communitysafety@elmbridge.gov.uk
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ElmbridgeBC#>

NOISE COMPLAINTS 01372 474750

ABANDONED VEHICLES, GRAFFITI, LITTER
Clean Up Line 01372 474474

SURREY FIRE & RESCUE 01737 242444
Home Fire Risk Check 0800 085 0767
Contact Centre 03456 009 009

VOLUNTARY ACTION ELMBRIDGE 01372 463587
www.vae.org.uk

TELEPHONE/FAX/MAIL PREFERENCE SERVICE
To stop unsolicited sales or marketing calls
Phone www.tpsonline.org.uk 0845 070 0707
Fax calls www.fpsonline.org.uk 0845 070 0702
Mail www.mpsonline.org.uk 0845 703 4599

To report suspicious activity call:

- **Crimestoppers** – 0800 555 111
- **Anti-Terrorist Hotline** – 0800 789 321

Or in an emergency call 999

Useful Websites

www.banksafeonline.org.uk
www.bba.org.uk
www.cardwatch.org.uk
www.communities.gov.uk
www.crimeconcernuk.net
www.getsafeonline.org
www.homeoffice.gov.uk
www.identitytheft.org.uk
www.rightupyourstreet.net
www.surreycc.gov.uk
www.surreypa.gov.uk
www.thisismoney.co.uk
www.immobilise.com

Residents Associations:

www.esher-residents.com
www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk
www.hinchleywood.org.uk
[www.residents-association.COM\(Thames Ditton & Weston Green\)](http://www.residents-association.COM(Thames Ditton & Weston Green))
www.longditton.org



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999 For deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired people in the UK alert police, ambulance, fire, or coastguard services by either calling via a relay assistant or texting a message to 999 using an emergency SMS service. Go to www.emergencysms.org.uk for information about how to register.

Keep Them Out!

- **Remember** Lock your car at all times when parking and don't leave valuables on view
- **Remember** leave lights on in your property if you are going to be out after dusk; many properties targeted appeared unoccupied
- **Remember** Most burglars enter a premises from the rear, and many burglaries take place during the day



- **Remember** Burglars don't like security deadlocks on doors because they can't open them from the inside, and have to leave through a window
- **Remember** If your vehicle is "keyless", keep the key in a secure "Faraday" pouch or metal tin and keep keys AWAY from the front door or kitchen window
- **Remember** Make sure sheds and gates are locked, and outside bins are not left where burglars could use them as a stepping stone.