



# OWGRA

Osterley & Wyke Green Residents' Association

## eNewsletter – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> OWGRA eNewsletter of 2020. To see easily what is in it and jump to the articles of interest to you

- The title of every article is listed below in a Table of Contents (ToC).
- To go to any specific article click on the title and you will jump straight to it in the eNewsletter
- When you've finished an article, click "(Go Back)" at the article end to jump back to the ToC.

**PLEASE** – if you read one article, read the 1<sup>st</sup> one about rising Coronavirus cases in Hounslow and make sure you are following the guidance given there.

Health Advice .....	3
Coronavirus cases are rising in Hounslow !.....	3
NHS Advice on COVID-19.....	3
Government Advice.....	3
Test and Trace in Hounslow .....	4
Council Matters.....	5
LBH Website .....	5
LBH Newsletters .....	5
Libraries have reopened .....	5
Next phase of Hounslow's Streetspace projects announced .....	5
CPZ coming into operation next week .....	5
Leigham Drive School Streets Scheme starts in September .....	5
How hard are our local councillors working for us ?.....	5
Want to report a Problem in the Street ? .....	6
Space Way Booking System introduced.....	6
Flytipping cameras installed locally .....	7
New parking restrictions on Jersey Road at Osterley Park entrance .....	7
Consultations underway .....	7
Planning News.....	8
Tesco & Homebase .....	8
Bowls in Gunnersbury Park doomed .....	8
Local Services and Things to Do .....	9
Stay safe (and legal) when visiting shops, pubs and restaurants.....	9
Local "Eat Out to Help Out" .....	9
No date for when council Leisure centres will reopen.....	9

Osterley Park Update.....	9
Gunnersbury Park Museum now open .....	9
Drive-in cinema in Gunnersbury Park.....	10
Osterley Book Shop Sale coming soon.....	10
Wondering what to do in Hounslow this summer ? .....	10
Watermans now open .....	10
Crime and Prevention .....	11
Beware of text and email Scams (Bitcoin and payment to keep quiet).....	11
Fatal stabbing near Green Lane, Hounslow .....	12
Staying secure online.....	12
Theft of Motor Vehicles (July-August update).....	12
Catalytic Convertor Thefts now at epidemic levels .....	13
House burglaries in the area and how to protect your property .....	14
Police Report - July-August update .....	15
Follow our local Neighbourhood Watch .....	15
Contacting the Police .....	15
Sign up to OWL.....	15
Other News.....	16
Update on fatal crash at the Osterley Road – Church Road junction.....	16
TfL back to “good” Service Levels .....	16
Hammersmith Bridge now closed to pedestrians and cyclists .....	16
Local Care and Community Services .....	16
TW8 Newsletter .....	16

We hope you find this information useful and welcome hearing from you as to what more you would like from us, or any feedback (good or bad !). And if you do value what is in the eNewsletter, please encourage friends and neighbours to join OWGRA – the more members we have, the stronger our voice is. Details about how to join are below.

Please stay safe and follow the government’s advice – especially on social distancing. As always we welcome offers to help with OWGRA.

### **HOW TO BECOME AN OWGRA MEMBER**

This eNewsletter is sent directly to 20/21 OWGRA members. Please feel free to pass it on and encourage them to join OWGRA. There are several ways people can become members

- You will have recently received a membership form along with the Tesco/Homebase newsletter (distributed to all houses in our area), which you can complete and return
- You can make the payment of £10 online.
  - o Account Holder Name is Osterley & Wyke Green Residents Assoc
  - o Account Type is Business
  - o Sort Code is 08 92 99, and
  - o Account Number is 65291223.

Please ensure that such a payment has a clear reference to your name or address.

- Further details and other payment methods can be found [on our website](#).

We do hope you think being a member of OWGRA is good value and will encourage others to join.

Laurence Hawcroft, (Vice-Chair), and the OWGRA Committee.

## Health Advice

### Coronavirus cases are rising in Hounslow !



The council have issued the following statement on 15<sup>th</sup> August. **Please** read this and ensure you follow the guidelines

*“Last night we received data from Public Health England which showed cases of coronavirus continue to increase in the borough, with a large rise in numbers over the past two days. Cases are concentrated in Heston, Hounslow Central/West,*

*Cranford and Chiswick, but also recorded in other areas.*

*The spread of cases suggests it's due to wider family and friend groups meeting and not maintaining social distancing.*

*We should not forget how awful the situation was for many of our residents earlier this year. More than 230 people lost their lives and thousands of others became seriously ill, with many still feeling the impact today. Coronavirus is still lethal. Lives are still at risk.*

*We need everyone to keep their distance from people who do not live in their home. Stay 2 metres away from them at all times where possible.*

*“Please, do your bit to help reduce the spread and keep your family and friends safe.*

***If we do not reduce this contact cases will keep rising, more lives will be put in danger and we risk a local lockdown in the borough.***

*You can spread coronavirus without symptoms. Don't be the one who makes your vulnerable friends and relatives sick.*

*People who ignore social distancing are making a choice to put themselves and others at risk. They may be fine, but the people they infect, particularly if they're elderly or have long-term health conditions such as diabetes or heart problems, may not.*

*Continue to follow all Government advice:*

- **Keep your distance – 2m from others not in your household where possible**
- **Wash your hands**, or use hand sanitiser, regularly and for at least 20 seconds, especially when you get home.
- **Don't touch your face when you're are not in your home.**
- **Wear a face covering** in shops and supermarkets, on public transport and when in other indoor spaces where keeping apart from others isn't possible. Please always take a face covering with you when you leave your home in case you need to use it.
- **Get a free test if you have any symptoms** - a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. [Find a local site here.](#)
- **Stay at home** if you have symptoms, test positive for the virus, or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.”

More information at [www.hounslow.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/coronavirus)  
([Go Back](#))

### NHS Advice on COVID-19

The single most reliable source of health-related advice on Covid-19 is the NHS. Their website is <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> . Please use this as your first point of call for any health-related questions about this.

([Go Back](#))

### Government Advice



The [UK Government website](#) provides comprehensive and wide-ranging information about Covid-19, with advice about what to do if you have symptoms and updates on what the government is doing about the virus.

There is also information for businesses and other organisations on how to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. In addition, given that what you can and cannot do is now somewhat complicated, the government maintains a [Q&A Document](#) to guide you on what is and is not permitted ([Go Back](#))

## Test and Trace in Hounslow

NHS Test and Trace is an essential part of the Government's response to stopping the spread of coronavirus and to save lives. Get tested and do your bit to protect your friends and family.



The council have developed short videos to explain Test and Trace. These can be viewed on [the Councils YouTube channel here](#) and are available to watch in English, Panjabi, Gujarati, Urdu, Hindi and Polish.

For more information on the Test and Trace programme in the Borough [click here](#).

There are a range of local testing options available to you, including a mobile testing site with a mixture of walk in and drive-through appointments available. For more information, please [click here](#).

You must now self-isolate for 10 days if you:

- have symptoms of COVID-19 and/or
- receive a positive test result

People in your household should continue to self-isolate for 14 days. For more information visit the [NHS website](#).

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## Council Matters

### LBH Website

Hounslow Council are constantly updating the information on [their website about the coronavirus](#), pulling together relevant information and support available for everyone in the borough. ([Go Back](#))

### LBH Newsletters

The council are also sending out regular eNewsletters providing useful guidance on Covid-19 matters to Hounslow residents. You can sign up to receive this newsletter at the website in the article above. The only information you need to provide is an email address. ([Go Back](#))

### Libraries have reopened

Libraries have now reopened across the borough, including our own Osterley Library. Please however note the [reduced opening hours here](#) and remember to maintain social distancing when using it. ([Go Back](#))

### Next phase of Hounslow's Streetspace projects announced

The council has announced a further phase of Streetspace transport projects to be implemented. They state these are to *"..... help support more trips being made by foot and by bike.....are designed to reduce through-traffic in residential roads and to aid adherence to social distancing guidelines..."*.

This is all to be commended; but what they also mean is that local residents are not consulted or involved in what these are, and if you have to use your car then this means longer journeys, more congestion and more pollution.

Full details and information about the next phase of Streetspace projects can be found [here](#). Ones close to us include the Northumberland Avenue Area & North Isleworth (no through traffic), and North Street – Isleworth (closed). ([Go Back](#))

### CPZ coming into operation next week

Note that the new Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) covering the area including Borough Road, Ridgeway Road and College Road comes into operation on 24<sup>th</sup> August. ([Go Back](#))

### Leigham Drive School Streets Scheme starts in September

The council have confirmed that the school streets scheme around the Nishkam School will be extended to Leigham Drive and the Great West Road slip road starting on 1<sup>st</sup> September. This means that any vehicles not associated with residents' houses will receive a penalty fine if they enter these streets during the hours of operation of the scheme (7:45 – 9:15am and 2:45 – 4:15pm Monday to Friday).

([Go Back](#))

### How hard are our local councillors working for us ?

Hounslow Council have a system, the "Casework System" that records items that councillors raise on behalf of local residents. It is not an accurate measure of how hard councillors are working for their residents because, as the council state, *"..... Councillors receive and act on many other issues which aren't recorded on our own systems either because they take them up direct with officers by phone, email, and in meetings, or help the resident/business solve them without the need for additional council intervention, or because they are outside council responsibilities. Those outside council responsibilities might be issues raised with police, TfL, business owners or be about, for example, parks not owned/managed by the council. In addition, responding to queries about planning applications is not recorded as casework....."*

That said, a local resident got information on the number of such cases from the council under a Freedom of Information request. There are 60 councillors, and the average number of Casework entries per councillor was 111. Our three local councillors work as a team, moving work between them. Their figures are

- Councillor Unsa Chaudri 64
- Councillor Richard Eason 174
- Councillor Tony Louki 685

So on this measure (at least) we are well-served.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## Want to report a Problem in the Street ?

If you see a problem on the street that you want to report to the council, then by far the easiest way is to use the [FixMyStreet service](#). You can either use the web-based service, or download an app to your phone and use that. Anything you report here is automatically passed to the appropriate team at the council, and you can track the progress of your report. This can be used to report a wide range of problems. We often use it and recommend it as the easiest way to report issues to the council. [\(Go Back\)](#)

## Space Way Booking System introduced



An [online booking system](#) was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> July and is now mandatory for anyone seeking to visit Space Way to dispose of rubbish and recycling matters.

The council state that the system aims to reduce queuing at Space Way by permitting visitors to book a 30-minute slot for arriving and unloading. To help ensure that everyone with an appointment can access the site during their slot, residents are asked not to arrive too early for their appointment and not to visit the site if they haven't made a booking. Appointments are available up to two weeks in advance, for more information and to reserve a slot, visit [www.hounslow.gov.uk/spaceway](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/spaceway).

Hounslow residents can also visit recycling centres in some neighbouring boroughs, such as Richmond and Ealing, but do check the individual site before arrival, as they may also have their own restrictions or booking systems in place.

Trade customers will continue to access Space Way without the requirement of a booking via Heron Way (Gate 3).

Other ways to dispose of non-routine items include

- Take advantage of [Bulky](#) waste service for large household items that are too big for normal household waste, such as broken furniture and larger electrical items. You can use the service as many times as they like, provided you are registered to pay Council Tax in Hounslow and your payment details match your Council Tax address.
- Subscribe to the [Garden Waste](#) services for garden cuttings, etc.
- Textiles and small electrical items- put them in a bag on top of your other recycling boxes and the council will take them away
- Osterley Library – there is a metal container there for electrical items recycling
- Currys – several people have reported they will take old electrical items (TV,s printers, etc.). [\(Go Back\)](#)



## Flytipping cameras installed locally



The council have a number of CCTV cameras which they move around the borough as required to address local issues. They have just moved two of them into our area to detect for prosecution (or at least to deter) flytipping at hotspots in our area. These are located

- at the junction of Northumberland Avenue & Quakers Lane and
- at the junction of Penwerris Avenue & Jersey Road.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## New parking restrictions on Jersey Road at Osterley Park entrance

Those of you who travel along Jersey Road regularly will be aware that at times it is very congested around the entrance to Osterley Park due to visitors to the park parking on both sides of the road – and especially when there is an event on in the Park.

We have now been advised that the council will be bringing in parking restrictions in that area in October. These will restrict parking here between 7am and 7pm, 7 days a week.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## Consultations underway

Public Consultations being run by Hounslow Council currently open for feedback from residents include the following (with their summary of each included):

- Streetspace Feedback. The Hounslow Streetspace programme introduced a wide range of traffic management measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included proposals from residents from the Streetspace consultation in May - June 2020, alongside some existing projects now being delivered with greater urgency. The measures are intended to improve safety and social distancing for those making trips on foot or bike, and also help keep roads clear of traffic for those that have less of an alternative to travelling by car. They are now consulting on these changes and whether any trial ones should be made permanent. Closing Date 27 December [\(Details here\)](#).

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## Planning News

### Tesco & Homebase

All residents should by now have received the Newsletter through their door detailing the current proposals from Berkeley St. Edward (BSE) for the Tesco and Homebase Osterley sites (attached to the email with this eNewsletter in case you missed it).

In case you haven't seen the proposals, the developers website is here ( <https://syonlanefuture.com/> ) and the current (final) exhibition boards are here ( [https://syonlanefuture.com/wp-content/uploads/Syon\\_Lane\\_Boards\\_Final\\_High\\_Quality.pdf](https://syonlanefuture.com/wp-content/uploads/Syon_Lane_Boards_Final_High_Quality.pdf) ) which is available until 28 August.

The planning applications were due to be submitted by the end of July but are now expected in early September, but we don't know the reason for the delay.

In our view there is nothing right and everything wrong about these proposals. You can see more details of our views of the proposals on [our website](#) or in the [TW8 website](#).  
([Go Back](#))

### Bowls in Gunnersbury Park doomed

The company that runs Gunnersbury Park has signalled their intent to press ahead with the conversion of the [Bowling Green into mini-golf course](#) (even though their planning application to do so was refused).

Gunnersbury Estate (2026) CIC has stated that its priority remains to hand over the site to Putt in the Park as the Gunnersbury Park Bowls Club's licence expired at the beginning of the year. A statement by the company says, *"While their first application was unsuccessful, our developer partner will be re-submitting their proposal for planning permission in the immediate future, with our full backing, and we hope they will be able to open in spring 2021."*

The driver for this appears to be money (as always !). They are expecting 30,000 visitors a year to visit the park to use the mini golf facility. Allowing for half the days being too cold or wet, that means about 200 people a day which seems more than a little optimistic....Are there really that many people in the surrounding area with an unsatisfied need to play mini-golf ??  
([Go Back](#))



## Local Services and Things to Do

### Stay safe (and legal) when visiting shops, pubs and restaurants

The council advises anyone planning on heading out to the borough's shops, pubs or restaurants to make sure they follow the guidance and stay safe.

- Please continue to follow current social distancing guidance when travelling to or visiting our local shops.
- The Government require you to wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth while inside shops (and other enclosed areas) or receive a fine of up to £100, unless you are exempt.
- Exemptions include people who have trouble breathing or for whom wearing one would cause severe distress, children under the age of eleven and anyone who finds it difficult to manage them correctly.
- Advice on how to wear and make a face mask are on the [Government's website](#).

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### Local "Eat Out to Help Out"



I'm sure a lot of you have taken advantage of the government's "Eat Out to Help Out" scheme (we certainly have, at multiple local venues). For anyone not aware of it, anyone using a participating venue for eat-in will benefit from a 50 per cent discount, up to a maximum of £10 per person, on food and non-alcoholic drinks, any Monday to Wednesday in August.

To find out which restaurants are participating in the Eat Out to Help Out scheme in Hounslow you can use the Government's [online restaurant finder](#). Simply enter your postcode, or one near to where you want to eat out, to get a list of participating outlets within a five-mile radius.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### No date for when council Leisure centres will reopen

Despite the government now permitting leisure centres to reopen, as of 14<sup>th</sup> August there is still no firm date when Council leisure centres (run by Fusion) will re-open. These include Fountains in Brentford, New Chiswick Pool, Osterley Sports Centre, Isleworth Public Hall and the Isleworth Leisure Centre. A [statement on the LBH website](#) gives further details. They state that they "....hope to provide a further update later this month....".

[Fusion on their website](#) state that they are "Getting Ready to Bounce Back" but their most recent update on 5<sup>th</sup> August simply states that they ".....have been analysing the safety and financial challenges ahead....".

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### Osterley Park Update

The management there continue to gradually reopen facilities as they can covid-secure them. They now have a number of staff keeping the park tidy and safe, and the Stables café is operating smoothly. They have now reopened Cycle Hire as well as Canoeing – with changes as required to be covid-secure.

If you visit the park, please follow any guidance from the Park management with regard to keeping you and others safe and either dispose of any litter in litter bins or take it home with you.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### Gunnersbury Park Museum now open

This has now reopened, operating on reduced hours, and face coverings should be worn when visiting. They will have some spare disposable ones available at the front desk should you need. A one way system will operate in parts of the museum where social distancing is difficult

and some areas, including the historic kitchens, will remain closed for the time being. The shop will only be accepting card payments. As there is no storage space for bags visitors are asked to refrain from bringing large bags and backpacks. They will be taking your contact details upon entry to support the NHS track and trace system.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### **Drive-in cinema in Gunnersbury Park**

The Luna drive-in cinema company is now running a number of drive-in cinema events at Gunnersbury Park until 8<sup>th</sup> September. [Further details can be found here](#)

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### **Osterley Book Shop Sale coming soon...**

If you're looking to buy some books to read, our very own Osterley Book Shop on Thornbury Road will be holding their popular Book Sale in September. All books will be half-price

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### **Wondering what to do in Hounslow this summer ?**

If you're wondering what there is to do in Hounslow this summer, the council have put together the following lists

#### **Events and Days Out in Hounslow**

- [What's on in Hounslow](#) local activities and events across our borough
- [Hounslow Urban Farm](#), learn all about farm animals.
- [Syon Park Gardens](#), visit the beautiful historic gardens.
- [Chiswick House Gardens](#), enjoy 65 acres of gardens.
- [Osterley Park & House](#), a Georgian country estate, with cycle hire available Wednesday – Sundays in August from 10am-4pm.

#### **Get Active wherever you are**

- [How much should I be doing?](#) NHS guidance for all ages.
- [Tips for getting started](#), for those new to exercise.
- [Couch to 5k](#) app helps you build up to running in just nine weeks.
- [Active 10](#) app helps you add more activity into your day.
- [Free Health Walks](#) across the borough.
- [Get Active Activities Map](#) to download for free.
- [Full list of activities for young people](#) this summer.

#### **Arts & Crafts**

- [Activities For Kids from Fields in Trust](#), from designing a dream park to making faces and a fun parks word search, there's plenty to help the kids be creative.
- [Bounce Theatre](#) presents Art workshops at Reach Academy, every Tuesday in August.
- [Rainbows of Feltham](#) competition to showcase creative rainbows across Feltham in support of the NHS during the COVID-19 pandemic. Email your entries into [felthamLAG@gmail.com](mailto:felthamLAG@gmail.com). Closing date for entries is Monday 31 August at 12noon.

For more activity inspiration visit [hounslow.org/move-more](https://hounslow.org/move-more).

[\(Go Back\)](#)

### **Watermans now open**

Watermans in Brentford have confirmed that their Cinema, Gallery, Restaurant and Bar are now open with full covid-secure measures in place. The new opening hours are 12.30-9.45pm. Lines will be open 1-8.30pm. Details of their [programme of events can be found here](#).

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## Crime and Prevention

### Beware of text and email Scams (Bitcoin and payment to keep quiet)



Police have issued the following advice

*"In order to avoid being scammed NEVER pay for an item with BITCOIN, Money transfer or Bank transfer unless you are 100% certain that the transaction is genuine."*

- *BITCOIN has become the currency of crime because it is totally untraceable. Once the money has transferred to bitcoin the recipient can never be traced. There is no legitimate reason for anyone to use bitcoin! Yet still I read reports everyday of people paying or transferring payment via bitcoin and being surprised when they never receive any goods and the seller disappears.*
- *Bank and other transfers should only be used if you know and totally trust the seller or you have already received and are happy with the goods.*

*And if you receive an email stating that someone has accessed your computer camera and caught you doing something embarrassing or that they have hacked your computer and have all your passwords - this is also a scam! They will probably provide you with your current or recent password in order to convince you that they have managed to hack your computer. They will ask for a large sum of money to be transferred to them to prevent them distributing your images or passwords. And guess what? They will ask for BITCOIN. Do not pay. Immediately change your password(s) to a stronger one and ignore the request. It is a SCAM!"*

If you receive an unexpected text or email, asking for personal or financial details, do not respond. Do not click on the links or attachments in any texts or emails; instead visit the official website through a known route.

Other scams to be aware of are:

- Fake testing kits offered for sale.
- Emails with government agency (e.g. HMRC, DWP) branding on making offers of financial support or saying you can get a refund on taxes, utilities, TV licences, etc. These are usually bogus – they are just after your personal and bank details
- Emails asking to gain access to home computers (e.g. for a "free PC tuneup") - don't divulge logon details / passwords.
- Online shopping scams where orders for protective face masks, hand sanitiser and other healthcare products have never arrived.
- People offering miracle cures or vaccines for coronavirus, or products available to buy online that say they can protect you or cure coronavirus. These will not help and are designed to take your money.
- People impersonating healthcare workers, claiming to be offering 'home-testing' for coronavirus – this is a scam.
- Mobile phone applications that claim to give you updates on the virus but instead, they lock your phone and demand a ransom.
- Remember – your bank, Building Society, the government/HMRC, etc. will never ask you to confirm your bank account details – they already know it.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has launched [Suspicious Email Reporting Service](#). You can forward any suspicious emails directly to NCSC-including those claiming to offer services related to coronavirus.

If you think you may have been the victim of fraud or cyber crime, you should report this to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Find out more about how to stay safe and secure on the [National Cyber Security website](#).  
(Go Back)

## Fatal stabbing near Green Lane, Hounslow

Police report that they were at called at 02:47hrs on 30<sup>th</sup> July to reports of a stabbing at Clements Court on Green Lane in Hounslow. Officers and the London Ambulance Service attended. At the scene a 32-year-old man was found suffering from stab wounds. Despite the efforts of medics at the scene, he was pronounced dead at 03:45hrs. His next of kin have been informed. A post-mortem examination will be scheduled in due course.

A 22-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder. She was taken to a central London police station where she remains at this time.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## Staying secure online

As we start to become increasingly more reliant on technology at home it helps to stay in the know about staying safe online and protect ourselves from cyber threats. Here are some useful top tips to ensure that you and your family stay secure online:

- Protect your email by using a strong password and separate password
- Install the latest software and app updates
- Turn on two-factor authentication on your email
- Password Managers help you to secure passwords
- Secure smartphones and tablets with a screen lock
- Always back up your most important data. [\(Go Back\)](#)

## Theft of Motor Vehicles (July-August update)

There continues to be a high number of car thefts and breakins in our area. Ones we have heard about recently include

- Attempted theft from a vehicle on Jersey Road on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The criminals tried to open the doors of a car parked on a drive ([see Ring video of the attempt](#)). This is the standard “try every car door till we find one not locked” crime – they had also been seen trying other car doors along Jersey Road
- Attempted theft from a vehicle on Stucley Road on 25<sup>th</sup> July. A male tried to open a vehicle car door but ran off when the alarm sounded. He was described as an Asian or Eastern European Male, wearing a Grey jacket, Black T-Shirt with a logo and Black Trousers with a logo
- Theft of a vehicle on Eversley Crescent on 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> August. A White Ford Transit Tipper Van was stolen.
- Theft of a motorbike on College Road on 4<sup>th</sup> August. A BMW R12.50 GS adventure Rallye Hp135 Colour blue red and white with gold wheel was stolen by 2 young males on a moped
- Theft from a motor vehicle on Marbaix Gardens on 3<sup>rd</sup> August
- Theft of a vehicle on Wood Lane on 11<sup>th</sup> August. A black Honda CRV was stolen.

Remember to protect your vehicle whenever you are away from it

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. Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'.
2. 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. If you have a garage at home use it
3. Take it with you or hide it. Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, handbags, purses, credit cards and 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.
4. Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels. Using locking wheel nuts

- reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.
5. Security Alarm. Fit an alarm or immobiliser if your vehicle does not have one. Visible deterrents such as steering wheel or gear stick locks are also effective and easily fitted.
  6. 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.
  7. Tool theft from vans. Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. Consider using a lockable cabinet within your van to store tools. Small cameras are also designed to record inside vehicles. Visit Secured by Design for more details.
  8. Visible security locks. Police now also recommend using additional visible security locks to reduce the risk of your vehicle being stolen, such as individual bar-type steering locks and gear stick locks.

Also if you have a modern "Keyless" car (i.e. you just press a sensor to unlock the car and don't need to use a key to start it - just a button) then consider getting a 'Faraday Pouch' (readily available on Amazon etc for about £5 ea) to store your car keys in at home. The Faraday pouch blocks all signals to and from inside of the pouch. Or just place your keys in a metal tin (such as an old biscuit tin or tea caddy) with a metal lid – it is just as effective. Also make sure you store your keys as far away from the front of the house as possible. ([Go Back](#))

## Catalytic Convertor Thefts now at epidemic levels

These thefts are now reaching epidemic proportions. Ones we have heard of since our last eNewsletter was sent out are:

- Tesco Car Park, Syon Lane. Attempted theft of one on 23<sup>rd</sup> July from a Mitsubishi Shogun, stopped by a vigilant shopper challenging the thieves
- Syon Lane outside Homebase. A catalytic convertor stolen on 23<sup>rd</sup> July from a Honda Jazz in the early afternoon
- Syon Lane. A catalytic converter stolen overnight on 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> July from a Toyota Prius
- Witham Road. A catalytic convertor stolen on 28<sup>th</sup> July – 29<sup>th</sup> July from a Honda Jazz
- Wood Lane. A catalytic convertor stolen sometime between 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July from a Toyota Champagne
- Lulworth Avenue. A catalytic convertor stolen on 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July from a Volvo S40.
- Spring Grove Road. A catalytic convertor was stolen early in the morning on 13<sup>th</sup> August from a Toyota Prius.
- Jersey Road. A catalytic converter stolen on 15<sup>th</sup> August mid-morning from a Toyota Auris parked in Wycombe House Cricket Club car park and
- Tesco Syon Lane, Osterley Garden Centre and College Road. Just before we distributed this eNewsletter we heard of these incidents on 19<sup>th</sup> August in the afternoon (1<sup>st</sup> two incidents) and 20<sup>th</sup> August in the early morning, involving a Honda Jazz, Toyota Prius and Lexus.

Vehicles of choice are Lexus, Toyota Prius and Honda Jazz hybrid cars, and some owners have now had catalytic convertors stolen for a second time, prompting them to put the car up for sale. These convertors are being stolen to strip them down for the valuable metals they contain like Platinum and Palladium, which can be double the value of gold. **If you have one of these cars, either implement one of the anti-theft measures listed below or do not park it in a public area (it has now really got to that stage, sadly..).**

The attached video ( <https://youtu.be/qybMIkySaXk> ) shows how long it takes them to steal one – **60 seconds !** Two or three guys pull up in a car, one starts jacking up the car and the other(s) keeps watch with a battery powered electric saw in their hand. The guy with the saw will go under the car at the front and/or on the side and cut the converter which is located under the car usually towards the middle or the front depending on the car. They take the catalytic converter and jump back in the car.



The police suggest the following security methods to deter the thieves

- DNA marking
  - o <https://www.selectadna.co.uk/>
- Cage Clamps
  - o <http://www.catsafe.org.uk/>
  - o <https://garrisonlocks.co.uk/van-locks-security-products-c1/armacat-catshield-catalytic-converter-protection-c3>
  - o <https://www.catlocks.co.uk/>
  - o local resident who has been targeted has fitted this to the underside of his Prius – a [Catloc](#) that costs around £300



Sadly this is not specific to our area; incidents of these thefts are far higher across the country. Police advice to reduce the risk of it happening to you is

- ask your car dealer if they can give you any advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer.
- Park your vehicle in a garage or somewhere that makes it difficult for anyone to access its underside.
- Install CCTV and an alarm system that captures where you park.
- Don't park your car in one place for a long time.
- Etch security details into the converter.
- Secure the Converter with extra bolts or a protective sleeve to make it harder to cut out.
- Try 'defensive parking' against a wall or by another lower vehicle to make it more difficult to reach under your vehicle.
- Have a mechanic weld the catalytic converter to the exhaust system.
- You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. Visit: [Secured by Design](#) for more details.
- converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/vehicle-crime>
- If you have home CCTV, try and park the car in sight of it.

[\(Go Back\)](#)

## House burglaries in the area and how to protect your property

Unfortunately the police report there have been house burglaries in our area in the last few weeks

- At night on 31<sup>st</sup> July a house on the Great West Road close to the junction with Syon Park Gardens was burgled. They gained access to the rear of the property via climbing over a weak point in the fencing and then standing on a wheelie bin to gain entry through the kitchen window. A significant amount of items were stolen
- A distraction burglary on 6<sup>th</sup> August on Spencer Road. (Do not allow ANYONE into your house no matter how insistent they are or urgent it seems unless you are 100% sure they are genuine.).
- In the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> August a house on the Great West Road close to the junction with Jersey Road was burgled. The thieves gained access through a bedroom window at the rear of the property. Various items were stolen.

Police advice remains that to minimise the risk of falling victim to house burglary you should follow the same course of action when you lock up your home. Make up a list and then follow it like a checklist - this will ensure that you don't forget anything. You should follow this when you leave the house to go out (and please secure your house before you go to bed each night).

Here's what they recommend you do to lock and secure your house when you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening



- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage. The lock fittings should be bolted through the door of the shed/garage and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. The padlock should be 2.5mm in width and made of hardened steel
- lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

Please also see [www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary](http://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary) and [www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/business-robbery/protect-your-business](http://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/business-robbery/protect-your-business)  
([Go Back](#))

## Police Report - July-August update

Attached to the email with this eNewsletter is the latest report from our local police, which we encourage you to read. It includes

- Re-emphasis from the police of the importance of reporting anything that you see or hear that concerns you to them
- Current Crime Trends and prevention tips – related to vehicles
- A report from our Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) as to what his job entails and
- A good news page of recent successes by them.

([Go Back](#))

## Follow our local Neighbourhood Watch

Please follow the newly launched Twitter, Facebook and Instagram social media accounts from the Hounslow Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association (HBNWA).

- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/HounslowNWatch>
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/HounslowNWatch/>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/hounslownwatch/>

([Go Back](#))

## Contacting the Police

Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents. If you need to report something of concern in your area (that does not fall into the above categories) then it is best to contact your local Safer

Neighbourhood team. Their [website is here](#). There are also details about the levels of crime in the area, and details of our Safer Neighbourhood Team. ([Go Back](#))

## Sign up to OWL

[OWL](#) helps to keep communities safe, reduce crime and keep people informed of what's going on locally. It's a shared, secure platform for the public, police and local authorities to maximise the potential of Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch, Business Watch and dozens of other schemes. OWL sends you the latest local crime alerts and provides management tools for maintaining and expanding watches.

It is completely free to use. We recommend local residents sign up for it; you will then receive regular emails from the police with information on crimes in the area, crime prevention advice, and more (including the Safer Neighbourhood Team eNewsletter). ([Go Back](#))

## Other News

### Update on fatal crash at the Osterley Road – Church Road junction

We reported in a previous eNewsletter the sad news that a local motorcyclist was killed in a crash with a car at the junction of Church Road and Osterley Road. OWGRA members living locally have contacted the council to try and get additional safety measures installed to curb high speed traffic in this area, and a site visit was arranged by Cllr. Unsa Chaudri and the council.

Unfortunately the council have now responded that they see no need for any action at this junction, and that there have been (the above notwithstanding) little or no issues at this junction. Local residents beg to differ and say they have witnessed the aftermath of a number of collisions over the last few years. ([Go Back](#))

### TfL back to “good” Service Levels

We're not quite sure what “good service levels” are, but TfL do ask that if possible you travel in the quieter times (between 08:15-16:00 and after 17:30 on weekdays, and before noon and after 18:00 on weekends). Find out more about [busier times and stations](#).

When using public transport they also ask that you keep the following in mind when travelling:

- Many local stations have different quiet times. Check how busy any station is on the TfL network at any time or day using our [online tool](#) or our [TfL Go](#) app.
- You must wear a **face covering over your mouth and nose** for your entire journey including inside stations, unless you are [exempt](#).
- Please maintain **social distancing** from other passengers and allow extra time as some station layouts may have changed.
- They have a number of online tools to help you **plan your journey**, including maps with [walking times between Tube stations](#) and [walking times between shops and attractions in West End](#).

([Go Back](#))

### Hammersmith Bridge now closed to pedestrians and cyclists

Hammersmith Bridge has now [been closed to pedestrians and cyclists](#) after safety inspectors found cracks in the 133-year-old structure had worsened following the recent heatwave. Even boats will be unable to pass under the Grade II\* listed structure, which is used by up to 16,000 people a day, while walkways underneath the bridge on the banks of the Thames have also been closed. The cost of repairing the bridge is now estimated to be £140m with Hammersmith council, Richmond Council, TfL and central government all in “discussions” as to who should pay. The saga continues..... ([Go Back](#))

### Local Care and Community Services

Careplace [www.careplace.org.uk/](http://www.careplace.org.uk/) is a web directory of local care and community services and how to pay for them. On this page [www.careplace.org.uk/Services/16122](http://www.careplace.org.uk/Services/16122) you can download the useful current “Guide to Self-Funding Adult Social Care and Support Services in Hounslow”. The Community Information Guide from LB Hounslow is a register of voluntary and community groups in Hounslow and information about community buildings that are available to hire in the borough <https://cig.hounslow.gov.uk>. ([Go Back](#))

### TW8 Newsletter

You might have noticed that we frequently give links to news and stories on <http://www.brentfordtw8.com/> (it covers TW7 as well as TW8). This is a very informative website, and you can sign up to receive their weekly e-newsletter. There are similar websites for Chiswick (<http://www.chiswickw4.com/>) and Ealing (<http://www.ealingtoday.co.uk>). ([Go Back](#))