



Elmbridge

Elmbridge Borough Commander
Inspector 2934 Bert Dean

Monday 14th August 2023

Dear Resident,

You are likely to be aware that East & West Molesey, like every other area in Surrey, suffers from burglaries. We often see an increase in the Autumn and Winter months as the evenings get darker. I am keen to reduce the opportunity for burglars in East & West Molesey and would ask you to consider what steps you can take now to make your home more secure, or how you as a community can help us beat the burglar.

Last year¹ we recorded 3.4 burglaries for every 1000 residents in Elmbridge. This is higher than the Covid years but lower than in 2019-2020 (when it was 5 per 1000).

By looking at our data for burglaries in East & West Molesey during September 2022 to February 2023, we saw:

- **What was targeted?** Mainly detached and semi-detached houses
- **Where was the entry point?** 37% via the rear of the premises with 21% from the front of the premises.
- **What are the key times?** Key days were Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays anytime between 5pm and 9pm

I would encourage you to consider what extra security measures your home may benefit from before we head into the darker evenings. There are some helpful hints later in this letter. Perimeter protection is key - look at how secure your perimeter is. You may wish to consider defensive planting, sliding bar locks on side gates, new fencing/trellis, cameras that notify you if someone is at your perimeter.

An early notification of an intruder in a garden, or a person acting suspiciously, is vital in our ability to prevent crime before it happens. We did this last year following a 999 call in Oxshott that led to two people being arrested.

Burglars are often very quick and forensically aware. We will always investigate a house burglary but if there is *no* evidence that leads to us identifying the suspect, we will have little option but to finalise

¹ Financial year April 2022 – March 2023

the investigation. If further evidence comes to light in the future, such as stolen property being found or a suspect is arrested in a vehicle linked to the original burglary, then we will reopen the investigation.

In these cases, the investigation is not a quick process and there is still no guarantee that we will 'solve' the crime. We must provide sufficient evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service that would result in a successful prosecution, without this the case would not even be taken to court.

Over the coming months we will continue to patrol all the areas that are often targeted for burglaries. This will be in marked and unmarked cars – so you may not see us. We will continue to build on any intelligence we have and seek to reduce the number of reported burglaries in Elmbridge.

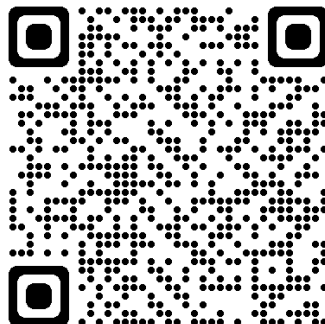
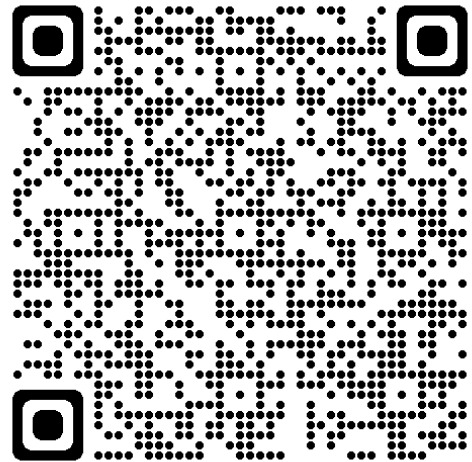
If you have any digital footage that you believe has suspicious activity but not sure if it is a crime then you can upload it via our website [here](#) or scan the QR code. We will then review the footage.

Please do report suspicious activity to us and if a crime is in progress or about to happen, please call 999. If you need to report an incident or crime that has already happened, please do so via 101, online at our website or message us through Facebook (@Elmbridge Beat).

Yours sincerely,



P.S. If you want to know more about Neighbourhood Watch in Elmbridge visit their website [here](#) or scan the QR code below ↓



Home Security Advice

General advice

Main aim is to prevent access in the first place

1. **Low front boundary**; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
2. **Secure side gate**; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours. Similar to Gatemate® locks.
3. **High side and rear boundaries** with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.
4. **Gravel driveway and path**; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.
5. **Security light**; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen. Motion lights could be an option or dawn/dusk lights.
6. **Intruder alarm system**; install a burglar alarm system.
7. **Secure your shed**; always keep your shed locked and secured, and make sure it is anchored down to prevent it from being lifted in order to gain access. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.
8. **Never leave tools lying around**; they can be used as a way of breaking into your home. Ensure ladders are locked up or locked away.
9. **Early notification of intruder from external cameras or doorbell camera**; many external cameras have a notification setting so you know when someone has entered your perimeter. Infra-red filters allow them to see intruders before they see the camera.



Staying in?

Some burglaries have happened when people are at home but have no idea that it has happened until it is too late. **External cameras (9)** can notify you of an intruder in the garden before they attempt to access your home.

Going out?

Always set your house alarm (6) even if you are going out for a very short time.

Make your property look lived in: always leave lights on after dusk and make sure that lights come on in an upstairs room at dusk as well as rooms downstairs (timers are an option). **Use a radio or fake TV light simulator** to give the impression that someone is at home.

Bins put them away when not in use and in a place where they can't be used to climb over a fence

Cars on the driveway can help it look like someone is living in the house

 **Call 999 immediately if intruders have been seen**

Owing to its prime location Elmbridge attracts many new residents each year. Sadly, like many places in the UK, burglars are active here too. Most burglaries happen at the rear of the premises, with access to the home being made from an upper window or by smashing glazing in bifold or patio doors.

To protect yourself from becoming a target for burglars you might like to consider additional security to protect your home.



Secured by Design (SbD) is a Police Initiative that works with the security industry to provide tested products to Police Preferred specifications. <https://www.securedbydesign.com>



PID Systems provide perimeter breach security and detection warnings and can be ideal for homes within larger grounds. <https://pid-systems.co.uk/>



uWatch Ltd develop, design & manufacture a sensor triggered device called The Cube. It picks up on movement and records and sends images. <https://www.uwatch.co.uk/>



Patlock is a lockable device that can add additional security to double doors with opposing handles. <https://patlock.co.uk>



Laminate glazing is an option that strengthens glazing in windows and doors and should be considered for new bifold or patio doors and windows. Already installed glazing can be strengthened with the addition of laminate film.



Always use an alarm company who are members of either the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB <https://www.ssaib.org>), Secured by Design (SbD) or National Security Inspectorate (NSI <https://www.nsi.org.uk>). Visit their website and input your postcode to find your local alarm company.



Ensure the upper levels of the house are fitted with sensors, including the master bedroom and any accessible windows and doors. We have seen burglars use upper windows/balconies to gain access.



Fogging devices can often be used in conjunction with alarm systems to disorientate intruders. <https://www.bandituk.co.uk> is one such company, but speak to your alarm company. Integration of CCTV into monitored alarm systems can add security and safety value to your alarm system.



Otherwise consider standalone CCTV systems to monitor your home and garden, with a notification system through an app.

If your property is rented the landlord's permission will be required to attach fixtures and fittings for crime prevention purposes.

For further advice please check the Surrey Police website <https://www.surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention>



@Elmbridge Beat

