

CHRISTMAS TIME, MISTLETOE & CRIME!

With the Christmas holiday season almost upon us, now is a good time to remind people to take the necessary steps towards ensuring your Christmas isn't spoiled by crime.

Criminals take the opportunities afforded them by the extra shopping we do, the hustle and bustle of town centres as we rush around, and the value of the goods we buy as presents that are stored in our homes until the 'big' day. We might also be more trusting and generous at Christmas when requests for charity are made, giving the unscrupulous a chance to collect for their own causes.

Don't become a victim or a statistic, follow our simple crime reduction and awareness guidelines and have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kind regards.

the Cerberus Team

featured in this issue...

1. Introduction *featured above*
2. A Thieves Paradise *featured opposite*
3. Christmas Car Crime *overleaf*
4. Blitzing The Festive Binge - Tackling Alcohol Problems *overleaf*
5. A Christmas Crime *overleaf*



"Leave your laptop or personal hand-held at home when you join the Christmas rush and revelry or risk losing your mobile device and all the information which resides on it"

The above is sound advice from Nokia's trusted security partner Pointsec Mobile Technologies who earlier this year conducted research entitled "Mobile Usage Survey".

THE SURVEY SAYS

The survey found that 25% of people have already lost their laptop or PDA this year and this figure is likely to increase during the Christmas festivities.

During the build up to the Christmas period the chances of you losing a mobile device or even worse having your device stolen, are higher than during the rest of the year due to overcrowding:

- **Busy stores where everybody is doing their Christmas shopping and laden down with bags.**
- **Overcrowded trains and buses due to limited car parking spaces, risk of drink driving or congestion charges.**
- **At the banks and post offices as people draw out more money as it gets closer to the festive season.**
- **In restaurants, bars and clubs as people celebrate at the 'Christmas' party.**

The survey also states that you are most likely to lose your laptop or PDA in the back of a taxi on the way home after a big shopping spree or after the works Christmas party, almost a quarter of people lose their devices in this manner. A fifth of people lose their mobile device in the next hot-spot, the venue of the party itself.

PERSONAL DETAILS

A third of PDA owners download bank details, bank account details, pin numbers, credit card information, social security numbers, business and personal names and addresses onto their devices, so imagine the horror of waking up after a Christmas outing or party only to find that you have lost your laptop or PDA.

JARGON BUSTER!

PDA- Personal Data/Digital Assistant

For any technophobes out there, a PDA is a hand-held computer combining a mobile phone, the Internet, email, SMS and fax with the facility to use office applications, images and multimedia.



CHRISTMAS CAR CRIME



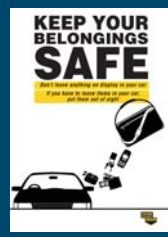
Do not become a victim of car crime this Christmas, follow these simple steps to help secure your vehicle during the festive season.

LOCK IT!

Never leave car doors, windows and sunroofs unlocked - even when just popping to the shop. Put the aerial down to stop it being vandalised.

DON'T DISPLAY

Don't leave any belongings in your car. If you can't take them with you, never leave them on display - lock them in the boot.



MAKE YOUR MARK

Security mark your stereo, and if possible, take it with you. Make a note of the serial number and leave it in a safe place.

DOUBLE CHEQUE

Don't leave credit cards, cheque books or vehicle documents in the glove compartment.

KEY TO SAFETY

Remove the ignition key and engage the steering lock, even when parking in your own driveway or garage.

BE ALARMED

Always use an alarm where possible.

FACT!
Over 20% of vehicle crime occurs in car parks

PARKING
Park in well-lit, busy areas and try to use supervised car parks.

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Don't leave your car unlocked while it is warming up on the driveway.

“ BEING A VICTIM OF VEHICLE CRIME AT THIS TIME OF YEAR CAN PUT A REAL DAMPENER ON CELEBRATIONS.... A FEW SECONDS' EXTRA EFFORT TO PARK IN A SAFE AREA OR PUT GIFTS IN THE BOOT CAN PREVENT HOURS OF DISTRESS SORTING OUT THE DAMAGE AND POSSIBLE INSURANCE CLAIMS ”

Crime Reduction Officer, Pc Jane Jepson.

blitzing the festive binge

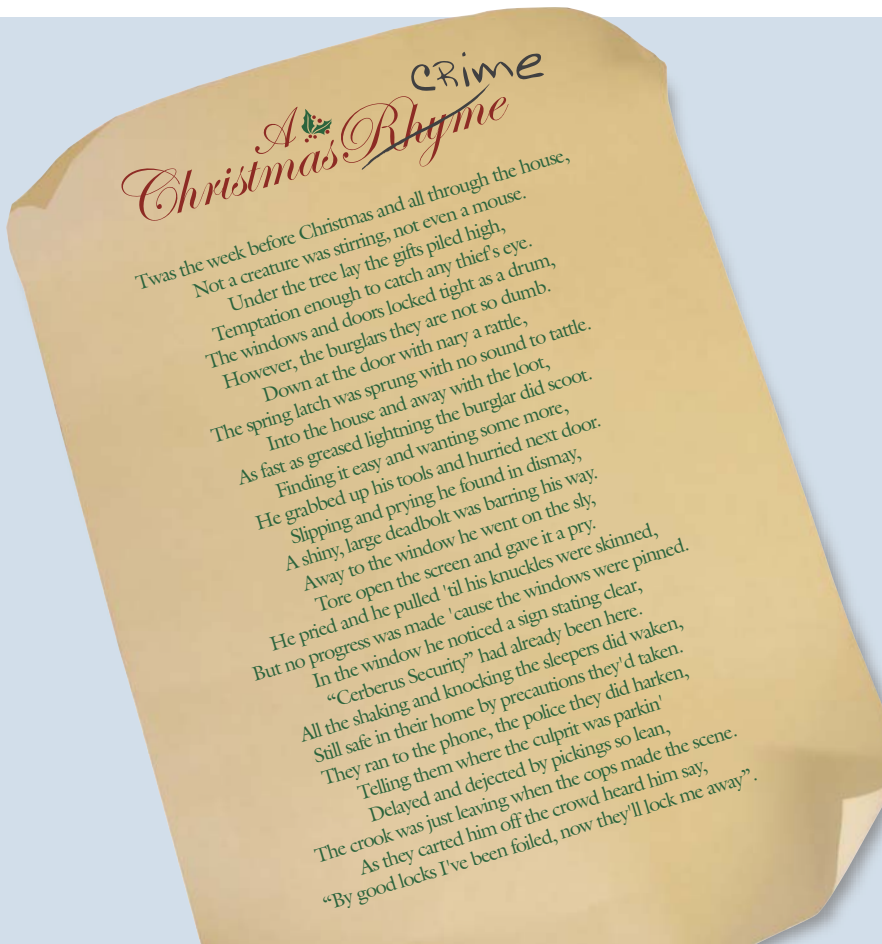
Home Office Minister, Hazel Blears announced recently that Christmas will see the start of an alcohol blitz which is set to tackle drink-fuelled disorder and underage drinking.



The crackdown is the second phase of an ACPO and Home Office co-ordinated campaign, which is aimed at cutting out alcohol-fuelled and related violence. The first phase of this campaign in the summer was such a success, the Home Office and ACPO realised its potential and are keen to build on the good practice developed.



Speaking at a conference in London in November, Hazel Blears re-iterated her views on this matter stating clearly, "Christmas is a time when people should be able to have a few drinks and enjoy themselves, but should not be an excuse for violent and anti-social behaviour by a minority, spoiling enjoyment for everyone else".



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