

## **The Oasis Centre - Cornwall**

Registered Charity Number 1139355, founded to serve the communities in the parishes of St Columb Major, St Mawgan-in-Pydar, St Eval and St Ervan



### **Looking Out for ..... Cars**

Number 06 in a series of notes on important issues.

Do you own a car? If you do, when did you last have a good look at the bits and pieces you keep in it – the glove box, all those storage pockets and the boot? All those bits and pieces are the subject matter of this note – specifically what those bits and pieces could tell a thief about you if your car is stolen.

Not long ago, a family had their car broken into while they were at a sporting event. Their car was parked in a specially allotted area for spectators. Items stolen from the car included (1) their garage door remote control, (2) money and (3) a satnav which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When they got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the satnav to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the sporting event, they knew what time the event was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. They had even brought a truck to empty the house of its contents!

The police suggest that if you have a satnav, don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a pub, service station or shop) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your satnav is stolen.

In a similar incident, a family left their car in the long-term parking at the airport while away on holiday. A thief broke into the car and using the information on the car's registration document in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the people's home many miles away and robbed it.

If you plan to leave your car in long-term parking (a clear sign that you are not returning soon), the police advise that you should not leave in it the registration document or any other papers that might help a thief to identify your home address. Such information will be even more helpful to a thief if, quite by chance, your house keys have been left too – because you will not need them on holiday!

Jeremy Simmonds, Chair, The Oasis Centre - Cornwall