# Residents face baffling wave of random vehicle vandalism in Cuckfield



Residents of Cuckfield, a small town near Haywards Heath, have expressed growing concern over a rising wave of vandalism targeting vehicles in their neighbourhood. Recent reports indicate that as many as eight cars have been found with smashed windows, leaving many locals puzzled and anxious. This apparent surge in anti-social behaviour has been described as random; thieves are reportedly not stealing items, prompting claims of mindless vandalism instead.

Deena Sammakia, a therapist who has lived in Cuckfield for nearly four years, spoke of her disbelief upon discovering her own vehicle had been damaged. "I am quite shocked, really, by everything going on in our town," she reflected. The area, typically regarded as a safe haven, has seen what Sammakia describes as an unexpected and strange turn of events. She noted that specific cars appeared to have been targeted, raising questions about the motivations behind the attacks. One vehicle, belonging to a tradesperson, was broken into but left with its valuable tools untouched. “It’s interesting, the cars they choose to vandalise,” she added, pointing to the bizarre nature of the crimes.

The incidents have not only been confined to Cuckfield; nearby villages are experiencing similar woes. In recent weeks, police have reported multiple vehicle-related crimes across the wider Mid Sussex district, including thefts in East Grinstead and Hurstpierpoint. A spokesperson for Sussex Police indicated that a concerted effort is underway to tackle these crimes. Officers have begun targeted patrols and deployed plain-clothed officers in hopes of apprehending those responsible for the vandalism. Inspector Dave Derrick stated, “We are actively making enquiries and viewing doorbell cameras and CCTV to try to identify those targeting vehicles, with a view of stealing items within.”

Despite these efforts, some in the community feel dissatisfied with the police response. According to one local resident, who preferred to remain unnamed, the vandalism is not just a Cuckfield problem. She remarked, “It has been put as just a Cuckfield thing but it’s not at all,” highlighting that her own street had experienced similar damage.

Another resident, a 24-year-old carer, shared her experience of having AirPod headphones stolen from her Fiat in a similar incident. Despite recovering her belongings after tracking them down, she felt frustrated with local law enforcement, saying, "Police can't go looking for headphones, which I do get, but it’s still a crime."

The situation has raised broader concerns about safety in a community long known for its tranquillity. Residents are now preoccupied with the fear that their vehicles could be next. Increased vigilance has led some to urge neighbours to lock their cars and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

The trend of vehicle vandalism in Cuckfield is reminiscent of other incidents reported across the UK, where neighbourhoods have found themselves grappling with similarly senseless attacks. Recent events in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire reflect a culture of youth-led vandalism that appears to be spreading. Local authorities have been urged to enhance community security measures, such as implementing increased CCTV coverage in public areas, including Cuckfield’s recreation grounds, which have also fallen victim to vandalism.

As Cuckfield residents come to terms with these unsettling developments, they remain resolute in their hope for a swift resolution. As Inspector Derrick noted, community vigilance remains key, encouraging anyone with information to come forward and help the police restore the peace in this typically quiet town.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25150953.cuckfield-residents-cars-broken-vandals/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/crime/vehicles-stolen-in-east-grinstead-and-cuckfield-and-catalytic-converter-thefts-reported-in-hurstpierpoint-4069691> - Sussex Police have reported multiple vehicle-related crimes in the Mid Sussex district. In East Grinstead, a beige and silver VW Golf was stolen after thieves gained access to the property and took the keys. In Cuckfield, a silver Ford Transit van was stolen while the owner was unloading. Additionally, in Hurstpierpoint, catalytic converter thefts were reported from two vehicles belonging to the same household. Police are urging residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.
3. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/crime/vehicles-stolen-in-cuckfield-and-burgess-hill-and-secure-property-ransacked-4048277> - Recent incidents in the Mid Sussex district include a burglary in London Road, Burgess Hill, where the front double-glazed window was smashed. In Ockley Way, a vehicle was broken into at 3:25 am, with loose change stolen. At Hickstead Service Station, tools were taken from an unattended vehicle. In Cuckfield, a blue Volvo Estate was stolen from London Road around 9 pm. Residents are advised to secure their properties and report any suspicious behavior to the police.
4. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/crime/quad-bike-and-high-value-tools-stolen-new-burglary-alerts-in-cuckfield-east-grinstead-and-scaynes-hill-4094775> - Sussex Police have issued burglary alerts for the Mid Sussex district. In Cuckfield, an individual was seen breaking into a property on Stapleford Road, believed to be searching for building materials. In East Grinstead, a garage was broken into on Manning Close, with high-value tools stolen. In Scaynes Hill, a quad bike and gardening equipment were taken from a property on Nash Lane. Police are urging residents to report any suspicious activity and to secure their properties.
5. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/cuckfield-pavilion-hit-by-vandals-in-early-hours-962153> - The pavilion at Cuckfield Recreation Ground was vandalized in the early hours, with tiles removed from the roof and wooden slats set on fire. Police and the fire service responded to the incident around 1 am. Residents have expressed concern over the ongoing vandalism in the area and are calling for increased security measures, including CCTV at the recreation ground.
6. <https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/haverhill/news/windows-smashed-and-wing-mirrors-broken-in-morning-spree-9337164/> - In Carlton Colville, Suffolk, vandals damaged multiple vehicles in a morning spree. Between 3 am and 3:30 am, eight cars were targeted. Incidents included wing mirrors being removed from vehicles in Wheatfield Road and Oatlands Close, and a back window smashed in a Nissan Juke. Suffolk Police are appealing for witnesses and information to assist in their investigation.
7. <https://www.cambridgeshire.police.uk/news/23419922.doddington-suspect-flees-cars-damaged-village/> - In Doddington, Cambridgeshire, several cars had their windows smashed following anti-social behavior in New Street. Police were called at about 2 am on Sunday, March 26, and discovered the damage. One victim reported their car was left undrivable after its windscreen and windows were 'smashed to pieces.' The suspect fled the scene, and an investigation is ongoing. Residents are urged to contact police with any information.