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DUBLIN 15'S ONLY **FREE!** NEWSPAPER

New Garda initiative to combat local crime

Blanchardstown gardaí are to launch a major anti-crime campaign in the area following an increase in the number of thefts from cars and homes in recent months.

According to Supt. John Harnett, "the aim of the campaign is to highlight the need to be vigi-

lant about crime and particularly theft in the area. There has been an increase in the number of burglaries from cars and we have to get the message home to people not to leave goods visible in vehicles."

One of the downsides in the increasing popularity in satellite navigation

(sat nav) systems for cars is the corresponding rise in theft of these devices. "In the United States, the theft of sat navs has been going through the roof and that trend is beginning to show here as well," says Supt. Harnett.

Car owners are being advised not to leave these on display or indeed not to leave the mounting brackets visible when they leave the car. "We would actually advise owners of sat navs to clean the window each time they remove the bracket because thieves are looking out for the mark left behind on the windscreen by the sucker on the bracket," said the superintendent.

The huge rise in the market for older cars, most of which have very basic old style stereo systems has also lead to a new demand for stolen modern car CD systems.

The increased use of technology and electronic security systems has made it virtually impossible to steal a modern car by traditional methods. This in

turn has lead to an increase in house break-ins with thieves looking for the keys of the modern car parked in the driveway. Supt. Harnett advises all householders not to leave their keys lying around at home, to ensure that their home security is good and not to leave garden implements and tools such as spades or hammers lying around as these could be used to assist in home break-ins.

As part of the campaign gardaí will be mounting display stands in local shopping centres next week where members of the public can discuss these issues and get advice.

According to Sergeant Kevin Jennings of the local Community Garda section, "we will also be visiting a number of local schools at closing time to assist with traffic management and to give advice to parents about parking near the schools and the problems this is causing for local 'lollipop ladies' and indeed for the children."

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Pupils from Scoil Oilibhéir pictured with Roy Keane at the launch of this year's Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind Shades fundraising campaign

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