

# Anti-crime garden is a thorn in burglars' side

Jerome Starkey  
Countryside Correspondent

A "crime prevention garden" with gravel paths, privet hedges and plants with spiky leaves will be on display at next month's flower show at Hampton Court Palace.

The crunching of footsteps on gravel stops intruders sneaking in quietly; a thick privet hedge is almost impenetrable; and spiky leaves and thorny bushes make it harder for thieves to scale walls. It also includes a pergola with rotating posts that make it harder for thieves to climb. Tall thin trees, such as cypresses, give criminals nowhere to hide.

Secured By Design, a police crime prevention initiative that paid £20,000 for the garden, said that better garden planning could "free up officers to catch criminals". Police figures show that less than 4 per cent of burglaries were solved in London in the year to April.

David Lucy, of the Metropolitan Police designing out crime unit, said: "Many of these simple, affordable tips can prevent burglars getting inside homes."

Sergeant Lucy told *The Mail on Sunday* that some people would be cynical but

added: "We have to be clever managing police resources. If this stops another elderly lady being a victim then it's worth it. We're doing this for the right reasons."

Secured By Design also recommends fixing slatted fences vertically, rather than horizontally, so as not to create step-up points for thieves to climb. It says that boundary walls, bins and fuel stores should be positioned in a way that prevents intruders using them to climb and boundary fencing should be made of robust steel that cannot be kicked in or cut. Low-voltage lighting and wifi-enabled CCTV cameras would also improve security, the police said. To protect outbuildings or sheds they suggest alarmed padlocks.

Separate research in Michigan and Pennsylvania suggested that crime rates in a neighbourhood fell when communities got to know one another by clearing run-down areas and making them greener by planting flowers.

The 8m x 5.5m garden was designed by the horticultural students Jacqueline Poll and Lucy Glover, who said that it had made them both more safety conscious.

The RHS Hampton Court Flower Show runs from July 2 to July 8.

## Making your garden a burglar deterrent

Steel fencing

Privet hedge

Tall thin trees that are not good for hiding or climbing

Plants with spiky leaves and thorns

CCTV



Firethorn



Osmanthus heterophyllus



Grasses that are easy to see through

Garden lighting

Pergola with rotating poles is difficult to climb

Gravel paths

Access your pension savings. For free.

Thanks to our low-cost SIPP



With the Fidelity Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) you can take the income you want from your pension, whenever you want it - free of charge. All you'll pay are the fund managers' ongoing charges and our low-cost service fee (typically 0.35%, but just 0.2% for £250,000 or more).

- No annual drawdown fees
- No one-off withdrawal fees
- No set-up fees

If you have a pension pot of £10,000 or more and are being charged to withdraw your money, consider transferring to us.

Please remember that the value of investments can go down as well as up. SIPP eligibility depends on personal circumstances. You cannot normally access money invested in a SIPP until the age of 55.

Talk to our retirement experts today  
**0800 860 0062**  
Lines open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

The Government's free and impartial Pension Wise service can help you understand your options at retirement: [www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk) or **0800 138 3944**



Investments | ISAs | Pensions

Issued by Financial Administration Services Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Fidelity, Fidelity International, the Fidelity International logo and F symbol are trademarks of FIL Limited. UKM1217/21247/CS08607/1218

"THE FEEL-GOOD FILM OF THE YEAR"



BEST MAGAZINE

IMELDA STAUNTON TIMOTHY SPALL CELIA IMRIE DAVID HAYMAN JOHN SESSIONS AND JOANNA LUMLEY

# FINDING YOUR FEET



DVD £10

FIND IT NOW ON DVD

Available at **Sainsbury's**

Subject to availability. Selected extra fees. © FINDING YOUR FEET LIMITED 2018. Produced by Fidelity International Ltd. All Rights Reserved.