

Welcome to the latest issue of GB Security Watch, your update on what's happening in the security sector and how to ensure your security systems are performing at their best.

In this issue, we hear about the security system that's guarding a Royal visit, how to keep the lead on the church and why farmers are getting their tractors in focus.

The Gelder Group

Smartphone access for security guards is the latest innovation in a sophisticated integrated security system that is now protecting sites across Lincolnshire for the Gelder Group of construction, plumbing, building supplies and recycling companies, one of which was recently redeveloped prior to a Royal visit.



The brief for security at Gelders was to overhaul and bring together a fragmented mix of different systems that had developed over the years, to create a single, integrated solution across a number of sites, each with very different needs. Crucially, Gelders were keen to develop their own internal security team and needed to be sure that any supplier would be happy to develop flexible solutions which could fit with that ambition, and allow Gelders' own personnel to be involved as much as they wished in the operation.

Following the successful completion of earlier phases by GB Security Group, the third and latest phase of the project is now complete – with an installation at the Gelder Group's head office in Sturton by Stow, where a new 15 acre environmental initiative was officially opened by HRH the Duke of Gloucester.



This security installation provides a new CCTV system, designed and installed to BS 8418, with an innovative PC based access system integrated to control two new gates around a new site access road. Each gate can be controlled remotely from the remote control room, but primarily on site via a network based access control system. The gates are fitted with two proximity readers, one at car height and the second at lorry height. Access is supported with connections to the intruder alarm and a logic system and it is all backed up with instant remote access for guards to check any situation via their hand-held PDA, alongside the 24hour remote monitoring and access management.

Vehicle tracking helps boost response times

GPS technology is helping to boost response times on engineer service calls for GB Security Group customers. The company's whole fleet has been fitted out with vehicle tracking, helping the office to coordinate and respond to call outs more swiftly. The positioning of each member of staff is plotted on a monitor making it simple to evaluate the best engineer to assign for the fastest response.

"Working alongside the diary system for routine calls by the engineers, this is providing both the company and our customers with a much more efficient service," said IT manager Oliver Bunton who has developed the system integration.



Keeping the lid on at St Mary's

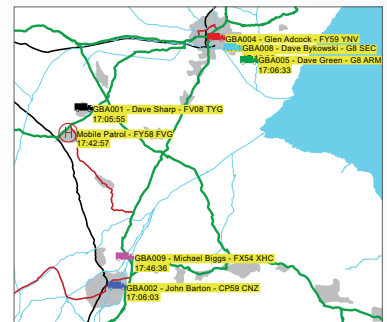
Lead theft from church roofs has become big business for thieves in recent years, so when roofing renovation work was ready to get underway at St Mary and the Holy Rood Church in the south Lincolnshire village of Donington, security was a top priority. And coming up with a solution to combat the threat along the roof top of the 800 year old church has resulted in a challenging intruder alarm installation for GB Security Group.

The company was called in to provide protection by the architectural roofing contractors, CEL Roofing, who are carrying out extensive works at the church, where the old roof lead has become porous, allowing water inside. The renewal of the lead is part of a major renovation project which also includes dealing with damaged stonework and deathwatch beetle.

To secure the roof, GB Security Group is providing an intruder alarm incorporating quad synchronisation to project across the roofline.

"This is a challenging installation for us, because of the architectural constraints of a building of this sort," said Dave Simpson, director for intruder alarms with GB Security Group, who is overseeing the contract.

Ecclesiastical Insurance, the biggest insurer of churches, reported a massive rise in claims between 2005 and 2007. In 2005, they received 80 claims costing £300,000, and by 2007 that had risen to 2,000 claims at a cost of over £6 million. The huge increase in the theft of lead has given rise to a £5,000 cap on claims for lead roofs, but the damage caused by a theft can be much more than just the cost of the lead when interiors are damaged by exposure to wind and rain.



25 years of expertise providing total security solutions

More customers hold maintenance charges with the big switch

Following the success of last year's big switch campaign, when more than 500 customers moved to direct debit to take advantage of a fix on maintenance charges, GB Security Group has extended the offer.

"We are offering customers a three-year hold on maintenance charges when they switch to direct debit, but that's not the only gain, as it's also less paperwork for everyone," explained GB Security Group accounts manager Sandra White

GB Security Group – one year on

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet."

Romeo and Juliet

"What's in a name" says Juliet in Shakespeare's well-loved play...

Well quite a lot, according to GB Security Group, who rebranded just over a year ago.

"We wanted to fully reflect the full company offering - which had developed from the early days of solely intruder alarms to encompass the complete range of security solutions," explained director Tom Wright recalling the thinking behind the change from the previous name of GB Alarms.

"Bearing in mind how long some of our customers have known us, it's not really surprising that it is taking a little time to get the new name firmly fixed, but we're planning a further drive to get the message across this summer".

Initiatives include a range of regular communications – as well as this company newsletter, GB is also delivering a range of branded updates and customer offers.

"CHAS" proves a good friend to customers

GB Security has been awarded a successful assessment review from CHAS, the leading health and safety pre-qualification process body.

In a challenging audit process, CHAS assesses health and safety for all types of suppliers to overcome unnecessary duplication. It effectively replaces the initial application process for buyers, to save time and resources for all involved in the process.

Buyers using CHAS range from public sector bodies like health trusts, to large private companies with a supply chain, like Royal Mail or construction company Kier.

"As a supplier, securing CHAS registration is a lengthy process, but once it's complete, it means that potential buyers can simply check the web site and identify that we're registered, which massively cuts down the H&S paperwork for everyone in the long run," said director Helen Wright.

She added: "The CHAS registration is important for customers, and the re-assessment is invaluable for us too, helping us to stand back and review our health and safety issues."

Farmers turn to monitoring

Farmers are turning to technology to secure high value machinery that is being stolen to order and shipped out of the country.

Following a series of thefts across Lincolnshire, police have urged farmers to be more vigilant, and many farms are now installing CCTV cameras with remote monitoring to overcome the problem.

In a recent spate of attacks in the south of the county, three tractors were stolen over a two week period in March. First to go was a JCB fast track worth about £90,000 with a fertilizer spreader worth about £15,000 attached. Next to go was a John Deere tractor, worth about £65,000, closely followed by another of the same make.

In May, two more John Deere tractors were stolen from an agricultural machinery supplier in Grantham, one of which was brand new. The burglary left a third tractor damaged in a water pond at the premises.

Head of Spalding Vehicle Crime Unit Dave Sargent said: "This is a real emerging trend. These types of crimes are a huge blow to farmers and the local rural economy as a whole and we need to work together to tackle the problem"

A spokesman for the NFU Mutual, the country's largest rural insurer, said that thefts of tractors and farm machinery had risen by 15pc last year costing a total of £22.9m in claims.

A spokesman for NFU Mutual, said: "There is a general belief among farmers that these tractors are being shipped to Eastern Europe or developing countries. We understand that they're being stripped down into components and parts. They use a low-loader lorry and get two or three tractors and take them elsewhere to strip them and then ship the parts. It is very organised, with probably teams of six or eight people working under cover of darkness."

Tom Smith, operations director of GB Monitoring's control centre said: "We've seen a surge in enquiries from existing and new rural customers, who have been looking to upgrade or install new systems because they are worried about theft, of both machinery and fuel."

"Remote monitoring is probably the cheapest and most effective solution to tackle high value equipment left unattended on remote sites, whether it's round the clock or just kicking in out of hours. Moving to remote monitoring is likely to help keep the lid on insurance premiums too," he added.



The latest agricultural machinery was on show in Lincolnshire at this year's county show. Organised theft of high value machinery in the county is encouraging farmers to switch on to remote monitoring.