

Babergh West rural area Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

27th November 2013

PRESS RELEASES

Although the usual newsletter is not due this week, we have had quite a few press releases and information of interest come out, so i am issuing this newsletter rather than wait until next week.

Don't make burglary childs play' film launched at start of burglary week

Don't make burglary child's play for criminals' is the message of a new film that aims to get residents to think about the security of their homes.

The film, that is being launched by police in Suffolk and Norfolk at the start of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) national week focusing on burglary, gives a unique take on an age old problem to warn residents in both counties of how easy it is for opportunist offenders to take advantage.

The video focuses on a generic house in a regular street with its windows open, doors unlocked, keys available, property easily accessible and not security marked.

It then shows a 'burglar' taking the opportunity to steal items of value.

However the fact that the burglar is a child underlines how easy it can be for offenders and how simple it is to put some steps in place to avoid being a burglary victim.

Detective Chief Inspector Bernie Morgan, of Suffolk Police, said; "Each week a good percentage of the burglaries reported to us are incidents where entry has been gained via an unlocked door or window, but equally there are also break-ins and there are a number of simple steps you can take to protect your home.

"The first and most obvious is to close and lock doors and windows, even if you are inside the property, and the second is to make your home appear occupied. At this time of year it gets dark early and it can be immediately evident to a would-be burglar there is no-one at home if your property is in darkness. By leaving a light on, or using a timer to switch one on at dusk, it immediately reduces the likelihood of your home being targeted.

DCI Morgan continues; "While the number of home burglaries continues to fall across Suffolk - and police are actively targeting offenders via Operation Drawbridge, an initiative to reduce crime and detect offences - home security is the best way to reduce your chance of being burgled."

Police advise reviewing your home security by looking at it through a burglar's eyes.

Are there places you could gain entry without being seen? How easy would it be to get in? How quickly would you find items of value?

There are some very basic - and inexpensive - steps you can take to make it much harder for criminals.

* Keep doors locked and windows secured at all times if possible - even if you are inside the property. Some offenders just walk into homes - breaking in can be noisy, attract attention and provide a greater likelihood of forensic evidence being found - so locking up can be the first line of defence. A walk-in burglar may try several homes before finding one that is unlocked - you don't want it to be yours.

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- * If you're out during the hours of darkness - whether it's for the evening or for a fortnight while you're away on holiday - take steps to make your home appear occupied. Nothing says a home is unoccupied quicker than having no lights on inside. If you're out for the evening leave a light or two on. If it's for longer get a timer to switch a light on automatically at dusk - for about £5 you'll take another step towards making your home less likely to be targeted.
- * If you are going away ask a trusted relative, friend or neighbour to make regular checks - collecting mail, turning lights on and opening curtains all make your home appear occupied.
- * Don't leave keys in locks. This can make a burglar's job easier - for example if a burglar can break a window or a pane of glass in the door and then use the key to unlock the whole door or window. Keys in locks can also grant access to other areas of your property and provide a quick exit route. Keep your keys in a safe place that is not on view/ easily accessible near the door or in the lock.
- * Don't store pieces of valuable jewellery or sentimental items in easy-to-find places such as a jewellery box on a dressing table or lying inside a drawer as these are the first places a burglar searching will look. Don't keep large sums of cash in your property.
- * Get valuable items of property security marked and keep detailed records of them - take photographs of jewellery and list make, model and serial number for electrical items for example. Register them for free at www.immobilise.com
- * Use exterior lighting. Good outdoor lighting can put off a burglar as they are more likely to be spotted in the act. The most appropriate is high-efficiency low energy lighting on a dusk to dawn switch. If you have motion sensor activated lights make sure they are directed downward - and fit them out of easy reach.
- * Maintain door and window frames to ensure they are strong and secure - and prevent intruders at the back and sides of your home by using strong, high, fencing with trellis or PrikkaStrip on top. Secure gates with a mortice lock or padlock bolts to prevent them from being slid open. A thorny hedge or bushes can be good but make sure passersby can still see the front of your home so that a burglar can't work without being seen.
- * Garages and sheds often contain tools or ladders which can be used for breaking-in. Make sure these are secure too - and consider installing a shed alarm (available for around £10 from many Suffolk Police stations or from retailers) which will make it uncomfortable for a burglar and will alert you and your neighbours if triggered.
- * If you're really serious about making your home more secure there are Home Office recommended door and window locks as well as a whole host of measures including burglar alarms, etc, that can be used. More information is available via www.suffolk.police.uk or you can contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team or crime reduction officer by dialling 101.

If you see or hear anything suspicious please do not hesitate to call 999

If you hear breaking glass, loud bangs or see someone hanging around or climbing over fences please call police. Officers would rather attend and find it is a false alarm than have homes burgled.

Watch "Don't make burglary child's play" at [don't make burglary child's play](#)

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Think twice before you buy

Have you been offered goods for sale in a pub or 'off-the back of a lorry'? Or perhaps you've bought a second-hand computer, camera or games console that you suspect may not have been acquired by legal means?

During burglary week police in Suffolk are urging you to think twice before buying from unknown sources as you may be fuelling burglary in your community.

When a burglary or car crime is committed and property is stolen it has to go somewhere and usually it is sold on.

Police work with second-hand dealers across the county as one way of reducing the market available to criminals but many stolen items are offered for sale by other means.

If you buy when approached by someone offering what appears to be a bargain deal you run the risk of purchasing stolen property – and are creating a market which encourages burglars to break into homes, causing misery to residents.

The next home they break into could be yours – or the home of someone you love – and suddenly it doesn't look like such a bargain.

Detective Chief Inspector Bernie Morgan said; "As well as targeting burglars and thieves we also target those that items are sold on to – the handlers of stolen property or 'fences'.

"When an item is taken there are a number of places it could end up but invariably it will be sold on. If no one bought stolen items it would remove the market for criminals. While realistically we know this is unlikely to happen, we know that most people wouldn't dream of burgling someone else's home and yet, by buying something that has been stolen, you are having the same effect – depriving someone else of their property and giving burglars a reason to go out and break-in.

"With this in mind we are asking you to think twice before buying if you are offered items for sale in these circumstances."

Volunteer Police Cadets based in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds will be helping distribute the Crimestoppers postcard attached during the week to highlight the issue and raise awareness of the harm buying stolen goods can do, as well as the potential penalties.

Anyone with information about where stolen items are being sold is asked to call Suffolk Police by dialling 101 or contact Crimestoppers, anonymously if required, on 0800 555 111.

Suffolk Constabulary donates tools to charity

Suffolk Constabulary is supporting local charity 'Tools With A Mission' (TWAM), by collecting tools seized as a result of crimes in our county. The tools are donated to the charity, which then re-distributes them amongst developing countries.

The Constabulary has been supporting the charity for six years now, by donating tools that have been seized or that have been donated by staff or members of the public.

Detective Chief Inspector Bernie Morgan has been collecting the discarded tools and presented the latest haul to Martin Griffiths and Alan Cribb of TWAM at Police Headquarters in Martlesham on Tuesday 19th November.

The charity will take the tools away and polish them up before shipping them out to countries that would benefit from this aid.

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Detective Chief Inspector Morgan said, "We have been supporting TWAM since 2007 and I am really pleased that we can continue to provide this charity with these tools, the majority of which have been seized as a result of crime.

"The concept of this registered charity, which is based in Ipswich, is fantastic - it enables people in places like Uganda and Zambia to earn a living and to support themselves, empowering them to become self-sufficient.

"Many of the tools collected have been used in various offences including burglary and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of ensuring that sheds and other storage facilities are made as secure as possible thus deterring an offender from committing further crime."

The Constabulary is currently supporting the Association of Chief Officers' Burglary Action week that aims to highlight the steps that communities can take to prevent their homes becoming targets for criminals.

TWAM supplies tools from simple carpentry kits to full workshop kits, from hand sewing machines to light industrial machines. All the equipment is refurbished to a high standard ready to be used in vocational and training centres to enable people to learn a skill. On completion of their training the students are provided with a complete tradesman's kit or tailoring kit. A full list of the tools they would like to be donated can be found on their website.

For more information and to find out how to donate tools, visit www.twam.co.uk

The Silver Line

A new helpline aimed at older people has been launched by Esther Rantzen, who was the force behind childline.

The helpline provides information, friendship and advice to older people 24 hours a day, every day of the year for free, by calling **0800 4 70 80 90**. more information can be found at the website, www.thesilverline.org

New leaflets aim to encourage change

Men and women being brought into custody suites in Suffolk and Norfolk in connection with domestic abuse cases are being given new leaflets in a bid to reduce repeat offending.

Police will be giving all those who come into custody on suspicion of violent crimes against their partner a booklet – from Respect – which explains the effects and consequences of domestic abuse with a view to help individuals make changes to their behaviour.

The booklet also contains a helpline The Respect Phoneline – freephone **0808 802 4040** - for domestic violence perpetrators and professionals who would like further information about services for those using violence/abuse in their intimate partner relationships.

A letter given out with the booklet, and signed by the Chief Constables of Suffolk and Norfolk, says; "Whilst you may not think you require any help or support I would encourage you to read it. Norfolk and Suffolk police are committed to dealing positively with domestic abuse having seen time and time again the tragic consequences that can result from this type of offending.

"If you are dealt with by the police for any domestic abuse related matters in the future, our criminal justice partners will be made aware that you have been provided with a copy of this leaflet and advised of the support available to you. Your previous involvement in this type of

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offending will also be referred to and these factors may have a bearing on how your case is dealt with and may affect the sanction you receive.

"You have the opportunity to do something about your behaviour and you are strongly encouraged to do so."

The booklets include information about what abuse is, why it happens, the effects it can have your partner and family, what you can do to stop it and what help is available, and covers male violence towards female and male partners and female violence towards male and female partners.

Detective Chief Inspector Kerry Cutler, who oversees investigation teams based in custody units across the counties, says; "A good percentage of the violent crimes police are called to are domestic-related and they can be particularly challenging to deal with. We aim to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice but we want to encourage offenders to think about their behaviour and the harm their actions are having on their family. It is a choice to be abusive – and help and support is available if individuals choose to change."

For more details visit ,a

ref="<http://www.respectphonenumber.org.uk>">www.respectphonenumber.org.uk

New burglary pack launched

Police in Suffolk have launched a new pack to provide information and advice to anyone who has been a victim of burglary.

Detective Chief Inspector Bernie Morgan and Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore officially launched the pack - that gives details of the steps that will be taken in the investigation, crime reduction advice and useful contacts - at Police Headquarters on Monday 18 November.

The information will be given out to anyone who reports a burglary at their home and provides details of the Victims Code, initial police actions, what to do after you have been burgled, steps you can take to improve the security of your home and important contacts, such as Victim Support.

The initiative comes as police continue to have success in both reducing and detecting home burglary crimes under Operation Drawbridge.

Detective Chief Inspector Bernie Morgan said; "We know that burglary can be an extremely distressing crime. Knowing that someone has been into your home and stolen items can destroy your sense of safety and can leave you angry, upset and annoyed.

"While we can't take away those feelings we can give you information and help to get through it and we will work towards finding the person responsible.

"The new pack replaces and updates the information we have previously provided and gives victims more details about what to expect from police and how they can get more support if they need it.

"While burglary in Suffolk continues to fall, with offences down 9.7% from the beginning of April to the end of October compared to the same period last year, equating to 100 fewer victims, we will continue to target those who are believed to be involved in offences."

The pack has been launched as a national week focussing on burglary continues.

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Operation Drawbridge, that was launched in October 2012, has seen officers targeting prolific offenders in a bid to reduce the number of crimes and to detect more burglary offences.

At the end of October the burglary detection rate stood at 24% - considerably higher than the national average of around 15-17%.

However police acknowledge there is always more that can be done and are urging residents to follow crime reduction advice and lock up homes and make your property appear to be occupied to reduce the chances of being burgled.

DCI Morgan says; "Burglars love to work under the cover of darkness and will target unlit homes where it appears no one is home. Small changes like having lights on in various rooms of your home and leaving a radio switched on can give the impression that someone is home."

Suffolk PCC Tim Passmore said; "Burglary is one of my performance priorities and I fully support this focus on burglary as the public can play a very important part in keeping their home and property safe.

"I am keen to see the solved rate continue to increase and I will be monitoring the Constabulary's progress on this but I would like to stress the importance of preventing burglary from happening in the first place. We all have a responsibility to secure our property and the public can really help the police and prevent burglary by taking diligent security measures."

Two racing bikes stolen from outbuilding

Police are appealing for witnesses after two racing bikes were stolen from an outbuilding in Great Waldingfield.

The incident happened in Badley Road, between 1.30pm Thursday 14 November and 9am on Saturday 16 November.

A mans racing white Storck bike and a mans racing blue and white Skills bike were stolen, along with a petrol strimmer, hedge trimmer and chainsaw from an outbuilding.

Anyone with information relating to this crime should contact PC Gary Austin from Hadleigh on 101 quoting SU/13/2273 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

SUFFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Please take the time to have a look at the following web sites for the SNWA.

Executive committee ~

<http://suffolknwa.onesuffolk.net/>

[SNWA](#)

You can now follow the SNWA on twitter twitter.com/SuffolkNWA

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SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

To speak with an Officer with the above SNT ~ telephone **101**

E-mail: baberghwest.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Write to ~ Suffolk Constabulary, Babergh Safer Neighbourhood Team, Sudbury Police Station, Acton Lane, Sudbury CO10 1QN

On Twitter: [Twitter](#) and search for @BaberghPolice.

If you would like to pop in and see us, our office is situated in Sudbury Police Station

Our opening times are:

9am – 5pm Monday – Sunday, closed Bank Holidays.

For further information about Safer Neighbourhood Team's (SNT) please click on the below link.

[Safer Neighbourhood Teams](#)

Please remember to visit your local SNT's web site on a regular basis to find out their 'priorities' and the action they are taking and much more about your area.

JO MOORE, COMMUNITY WATCH & SNT LIAISON OFFICER

Sudbury Police Station, Acton Lane, Sudbury CO10 1QN

Tel: 01284 774330

E-mail: joanna.moore@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Office based Mondays and Tuesdays 0800-1600, and alternate Wednesdays 0800-1600.

If you have details about any crimes, then please contact your local Police Station, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.