

## Napton on the Hill :: Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter - Christmas 2012

Welcome to the Christmas Newsletter from Napton.

**Shutting the stable door!** - if you are unlucky enough to suffer a burglary, here are some useful action points to pursue :-

1 - *Contact the Police on 101* - they will give you a crime number to quote in an insurance claim. They should also arrange for a crime prevention officer to advise on future security measures, and give you a contact at Victim Support.

2 - *Secure the property* - once the Police have been, repair all damaged doors and windows. Call your insurance company in case they offer a 24 hour repair service.

3 - *Look for the spare keys* - burglars often steal spare keys so that they can make a return visit in a few days time to really clear you out. If you suspect that the keys are missing, change the locks.

4 - *Make a list of what's missing* - as an extra precaution, take photographs of each room of your home. This will help you identify exactly what has been stolen if your house suffers a break-in.

5 - *Contact your insurance company* - ask for a claim form, and try to find receipts or valuations for the goods that have been stolen.

6 - *Take precautions against a repeat break-in* - once a burglar has been inside your home and got the hang of the layout, it gives him the confidence to return. You need to improve your security measures to thwart him. Booklets can be obtained from your NHW street coordinator.

**How to make the bad guys bypass your home** - some more advice on crime prevention from an ex-burglar! This may seem odd, but let's face it, a burglar knows more about crime than anyone!!

1 - *Your front door* - burglars nearly always start with the front door. If yours looks tatty, perhaps only has one cylinder lock, instead of a cylinder lock and deadlock, it will catch a thief's eye.

2 - *Do you have an alarm?* - buy one from a reputable well known company (e.g. Chubb, Banham, Yale). Burglars can spot the cheap systems and dummy alarms a mile off. For maximum security, alarms fitted with cameras allow you to view your home from your computer.

3 - *Defend your alley* - make sure that your side gate does not have a convenient handle for the thief to step onto and over the gate. Put some trellis on top - burglars hate it because it snaps.

4 - *Keep things hidden* - to the passing burglar your sitting room is like a shop window. Use curtains and blinds, so it is difficult to see in, and make sure your window locks are visible.

5 - *Keep keys well away from your letterbox* - it's standard practice for burglars to put a long stick through your letterbox and 'fish' your keys off the hall table. Not only will they be able to break into your house, but also steal your car, and take away more of your possessions.

6 - *Lock up your tools* - your shed or garage is an extension of your house. Do you have good secure locks on the outside, plus wire or security bars on the window? Thieves often want to use tools such as spades and forks to prise a door open.

**Car thieves are after your car keys** - because modern motor vehicles have become much more difficult to break into and steal, thieves are increasingly stealing car keys directly from drivers' homes. Recent research by LV Insurance shows that improvements in car security mean that criminals now place greater emphasis on stealing the keys rather than forcing the ignition. Approx. two thirds of vehicle thefts occur after the car keys have been taken from homes. Thieves seek out car keys during house burglaries so that they can steal a car at the same time. Car thefts involving 'hot wiring the ignition' have

reduced considerably and now account for just 1 in 50 thefts. Around 100,000 cars were stolen last year, down from 350,000 in 1991, but the proportion of vehicles not returned to their owners is rising. Last year 41% of stolen vehicles were recovered, compared to 70% in 2002, according to figures from RetinaGroup. In 2011 alone 65,000 British registered vehicles worth £300m were stolen and never recovered. Much of today's vehicle crime is organised by professional gangs who target top of the range models, many of which are shipped abroad where huge profits are made on the black market. Last year £1.5bn in criminal profit was generated by car theft in the UK. There's a lot at stake for the criminals - they are not going to let that kind of money go without a fight.



**Behind the scenes of Napton NHW** - did you know that :-

- \* 22 NHW street coordinators cover all roads in the village.
- \* 371 households across Napton receive crime messages, urgent warnings from Warwickshire Trading Standards, and the twice yearly Newsletter, all by letterbox deliveries.
- \* our coordinators introduce new residents to NHW with Welcome Packs containing useful crime prevention information.
- \* each month NHW contributes to the Napton Parish News with articles covering Police News, current crimes, and the latest scams notified by Warwickshire Trading Standards.
- \* each quarter NHW team members attend the Southam Community Forum and the Stratford NHW District Committee.
- \* local issues are pursued at Police liaison meetings.
- \* an NHW Report is delivered to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Message from our local Police** - Could able bodied parishioners please make a check on the elderly in their patch once or twice a week, especially in this cold weather.

And finally thank you to all of Napton's street coordinators for their efforts in making the village a safer place, and to all villagers for their continued vigilance.

**Don't forget to call the Police on 101 if you witness any suspicious activity and also if you see any doorstep peddlars or have them calling at your house. The police are very keen to know their whereabouts at the moment.**

**Wishing all parishioners a safe crime-free & enjoyable Christmas and Happy New Year**  
*Compiled, produced and published by Napton Neighbourhood Watch*