

# Crimebeat

**A monthly look at ways to  
Combat Crime.**

**With East Bassetlaw's Neighbourhood  
Policing Inspector, Jenny Madin**



## **Light up NOW for winter – and avoid a break in.**

Clocks gone back... it's dark by 5pm before you get home from work...your house is in darkness. They are just the kind of conditions a burglar loves.

So NOW is the time to get lit up for the dark winter nights ahead.

By making sure your home is well lit, you could avoid the nasty experience of coming home to a break in.

Burglaries in Nottinghamshire have been reduced in recent months, but we must not become complacent

Most burglars are opportunists just looking for a weakness in your security, and a house in darkness is a weakness.

It tells a thief that there is no one at home and they won't be seen committing the crime. And they never take a day off.

So, with the onset of the darker nights get switched on to crime prevention.

- Automatic time switches are cheap to buy and easy to use. They will turn your indoor lights on BEFORE you get home, but just make sure you change the times regularly as the days get shorter.
- Outdoor security lighting is a good deterrent. It can be set to come on automatically when it gets dark or to come on when anyone approaches.
- Ensure that gates giving access to the rear of your property are locked, particularly after dark, and don't leave tools or ladders that can be useful to a thief lying around. Lock them in your shed or garage.
- Keep your garden shed locked. Sheds are a favourite easy target for thieves. Just think how much it would cost to replace all the items stored in the average garden shed
- And use a good, strong lock. If your shed has a window, put up a curtain so a thief cannot see what

is inside. Fit bars to the window.

It's also a good idea to chain all the larger items together (it makes them much more difficult to carry away) and then fasten the chain to the floor.

- Cut back any overgrown shrubs and bushes. Thieves don't like being seen and overgrown bushes provide a welcome hiding place.
- Make sure all your windows are closed and, preferably, locked, especially all the downstairs windows and windows above a flat roof.
- Don't leave car keys and handbags on hall tables. They are the first things an opportunist will take. Car keys can also be hooked through the letter box and your car stolen.
- Property mark all your valuables using a UV marker pen. It is difficult to sell property marked in this way and if it is stolen it makes it easier for police to return it to its rightful owner if recovered. The pens only cost a few pence.

It's simple advice, but it's advice that can dramatically reduce your chances of becoming the victim of a very upsetting burglary.

**For further information on combating crime in your area, you can contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team Beat Officer PCSO Cath Phillips on 07525 409 789.**