

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER CRIME REDUCTION ADVICE SPECIAL



Special Points of Interest

- Seasonal Crime
- Purse Theft
- Neighbourhood Alert
- Victim Support
- Securing your shed
- Catalytic Converters
- Crimestoppers
- Distraction Burglaries

Be on your guard against seasonal crime ...

As the nights get lighter and the warmer weather arrives, we all start to spend more time in our gardens. This increases the chance of people becoming victims of crimes like burglary and car crime.

Many burglaries are down to the fact that the home owner has not locked their doors or windows. Unfortunately people need to be aware that unscrupulous thieves will not hesitate to capitalise on their trust or forgetfulness.

Many people will be planning on hosting barbeques or outdoor get-togethers to enjoy the lovely weather we are experiencing, and everyone deserves to have a fantastic time.

What we don't want is for them to have their belongings stolen because they forgot to secure their property.

Please, remember to lock your doors and windows – even if you are outside in the garden.

Residents are reminded not to leave ground level windows open at night and to ensure garden sheds and outbuildings are secure.

People should also remove belongings from inside their vehicles, as even the smallest of items can attract thieves. Sat Navs, sunglasses, clothing, handbags – these are all items that thieves will quite happily smash a car window to get their hands on.

Purse / Wallet Theft Prevention Advice

The chances of you becoming a victim of bag snatching, pick-pocketing or purse theft are low. Crimes committed by strangers in public places are still rare and account for a very small part of recorded crime.

However, you can make yourself even less likely to be the victim of this type of crime by taking a few sensible precautions. Many are common sense, and may be things you already do. Making yourself safer doesn't mean changing your entire lifestyle and it doesn't mean never going out at all.

Here is some advice on keeping **your** property safe. Its not exhaustive, and can't guarantee that a theft will not take place, but it may help to deter a potential criminal.

- Don't carry larger amounts of cash than you need to. Banks are there for a reason - to keep your money safe.
- Be careful when you are withdrawing money from ATMs.
- If you feel you are being followed, **call the Police.**

- Be aware of who is around you, especially in a busy or crowded place.
- **Ladies:** carry your bag close to your body with the strap over your shoulder. Keep your bag fastened at all times.
- **Gentlemen:** keep your wallet in an inside pocket, if possible.
- Keep your cards separate from your cheque books. Do not write your PIN down. If your cards are stolen, contact your bank or credit card company as soon as possible.
- Spread your valuables around, eg, keep your phone in your jacket, house keys in your pocket and money in your bag.
- When shopping, do not place your bag or purse in the trolley or basket, or leave them lying around whilst you pay.
- Never leave your purse or wallet unattended, even for a minute...



- If someone does try to take something from you, sometimes it is better to let them take it rather than to get into a confrontation and risk injury.

Remember, your safety is more important than your property.

The Community Safety Partnership has some purse/bag cables to give away. By securing a purse, wallet or other valuable item to a bag or to the person, thieves will instantly be deterred. The gradual tensioning system helps to ensure that if a thief does attempt to remove the purse, the victim will not be harmed or pulled over as the cable will extend 10 times its original length.

If you would like a purse cable, please contact the Community Safety Partnership on:

01636 655698



Nottinghamshire Alert is a system which allows Nottinghamshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch in Nottinghamshire and other organisations that work for the public to send community safety messages to you quickly and efficiently.

If you are interested in getting updates on major incidents, advice on crime prevention and community safety and alerts about criminals operating in your area, make sure you are registered with the system.

You can report anti social behaviour in your area and receive responses from Police about the incident you have reported and find out how to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or set up your own in your street by registering.

What do I get?

- A totally **free** service - you can control your message settings and choose to receive alerts via email, text message to your mobile phone or recorded voicemail. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- Information about **crime trends**, incidents and appeals from authorised Police Officers and Police Staff.
- You can report suspicious and anti social behaviour (not crime), receive updates and responses about them.
- You can configure how, when and which messages you would like to receive.

For more information, Tel: 101, extension 800 3011

Email: nottinghamshirealert@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To register for Nottinghamshire Alert, visit - www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk

If you would like a paper copy of the registration form, call 101, or visit your local police station to request one.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Victim and Witness Support Worker

Residents of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood suffering from Anti Social Behaviour can now call on a victim and witness support caseworker to work with, and support, victims and witnesses of ASB.

Izzy Majchrzyk works across the two District Council areas and her job is to deliver independent and confidential support to victims and witnesses.

How does it work?

After you have reported ASB to the Police or another support service, your case will be referred to Izzy. She will contact you and assess your needs, providing practical support and advice; ensuring that you have everything you need to feel safe and protected.

What is Practical Support?

As well as listening to you and providing a friendly and supportive ear, Izzy will ensure that you have everything you need to feel reassured and provide you with specialist advice.

Practical support can include:

- providing you with an anti social behaviour diary, so that you can log incidents of ASB and gather evidence.
- Giving you a Victim Support pack, containing items such as panic alarms, door and window locks and property marking kits.

- Assessing your needs and referring you to appropriate support agencies, to ensure that you receive the right level of care.
- Managing your case.
- Keeping you updated and keeping in touch with you, whether by phone or face to face.
- Attending Court, if Civil Enforcement Action is taken, and arranging for special measures, if you need to give evidence from behind a screen or in private.
- Liaise with other agencies to help tackle ASB.

You can expect the support of the ASB Victim and Witness Support Worker for as long as you need it. This may mean weekly or monthly contact with you, or following further discussions with you, making referrals to support agencies that can better support your needs.

If you would like any further information, contact Izzy on: **07837 048471** , or you can email:

izabela.majchrzyk@victimsupport.org.uk



Introduction

Sheds are often targeted by thieves because they are not designed to store valuable equipment and property - they were originally designed to house potting plants. Their fairly flimsy construction makes them easy to break into via the door, windows, walls or even the roof.

However, many homes have little outside storage space, so the shed inevitably becomes a place for storing items that are not wanted indoors.

Your Community Safety Partnership is working hard, in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Police, to prevent criminals from targeting sheds and properties, but you can play your part in making sure it is as difficult as possible for them.

Shed door security

Fit a tough pad bar (also called hasp and staple) secured with coach bolts and a strong padlock to the shed door.

Replace standard hinges with strap hinges secured by coach bolts or use security screws on existing hinges.

Internal security

Fit a battery-operated shed alarm.

Chain tools, cycles and other valuable equipment together or to a ground anchor using a high security chain or cable and a good quality padlock. This is the most effective way of securing property in a shed as long as the chain and padlock are strong enough.

Have you marked the contents of your shed? Make a note of serial numbers and take a photograph of your items.

Register them at

www.immobilise.com so police can prove they are yours if they are stolen and later recovered. Consider using security marking systems such as **Selectamark** or **SmartWater**.

Shed windows

It is better not to fit windows to sheds. However, if yours has a window, fit a window grille and/or a frosted window film to stop a potential thief seeing what's inside your shed.

Garden security

Install outside security lighting operated by either movement sensor or photo electric cell (Dusk till Dawn light) to the

garden area, giving coverage to the shed.

Secure the access to your shed and garden by locking gates and using thorny bushes next to walls and fences to prevent climbing.

Remember to secure gardening tools and equipment as they could be used by a criminal to break into your home.

Don't leave ladders easily accessible outside. Chain them up to a secure point with a strong chain and padlock.

Make sure the shed is secure on its base. Use coach bolts or similar to secure it.



Fit a tough pad bar (hasp and staple) secured with coach bolts and a strong padlock to the shed door



Nip Shed Burglary in the bud

Strengthen doors, fit better hinges and reinforcement bars
Avoid having windows in sheds, or use grilles or frosted glass
Fix a shed alarm
Extend home and contents insurance to sheds and garages
Report suspicious activity to police

SmartWater your property
Have security lights installed in your garden
Ensure sheds, garages and garden gates are locked
Deter thieves by chaining and anchoring valuable equipment
Sign up to www.immobilise.com to register your property

Catalytic converters control and convert exhaust emissions from your vehicle into less toxic substances. If yours is stolen, you will know because your vehicle's engine will sound different.

Nottinghamshire Police are working hard to apprehend these criminals. You can help by following this advice to protect your vehicle.

- If you can, park your vehicle in a locked garage when it is unattended.
- If its not possible to garage your vehicle, park in a busy, well-lit area, as close to your home as possible.
- Consider installing a Thatcham approved alarm to your vehicle - ones that activate if your vehicle is lifted or tilted are particularly effective.
- Use a catalytic converter protection device or marking scheme.

Below are details of websites which provide information on products that could help protect your vehicle.

Approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers' Secured by Design' scheme - www.securedbydesign.com

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Approved Thatcham alarm installers | - | www.thatcham.org |
| • Catalytic converter marking system | - | www.retainagroup.com |
| • Products to enhance vehicle security | - | www.soldsecure.org |

If you suspect your catalytic converter has been stolen, report it to the Police by calling **101**.

If you have any information about the theft of Catalytic Converters, you can call the Police on **101** or you can pass information anonymously on the Crimestoppers number **0800 555111**



Crimestoppers is here for you anytime of the day or night.

You can contact Crimestoppers [anonymously](#) by calling 0800 555 111. Talking to one of our advisors helps you provide the full picture and makes sure the best use can be made of your information.



**FIGHT CRIME
WITHOUT REVEALING
YOUR IDENTITY**

If you don't speak English or if English is not your first language, you can still give us information anonymously via a translation service. Your call will be answered by someone who speaks English. You will need to tell them which language you speak.

Because Crimestoppers is an 0800 number, calls are free and don't show up on a BT or cable phone bill.

Distraction burglary

- Some burglars won't go to the trouble of waiting until you're out to burgle your home; they will knock at the door and wait for you to invite them in.
- Bogus callers are not easily distinguished from genuine callers. They can be any age and be wearing any kind of clothing. They may use any kind of story to trick their way into your home.
- Always look through a window to see who is at the door. You can fit a spy hole to your door if you are not able to see clearly who is calling.
- Fit a door chain so you do not have to open the door fully to speak to the caller.
- Distraction burglars have been known to work in pairs, so make sure doors and windows at the back of your house are locked before you open the front door. This will stop anyone from sneaking into your house via the back.
- Ensure you know exactly who you are letting into your home. Ask to see some identification. If you are in any doubt contact the company they say they work for to ensure they are genuine before letting them into your home. Authentic callers will appreciate your concern and won't mind waiting.
- Install a light at the front of your house so you can clearly see anyone who calls at night.
- If you are in any doubt - **keep them out**. Report any suspicious behaviour to the **Police** on **101**