

## **Rushcliffe Community Watch**

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**To:** <rushcliffecommunitywatch@crime-prevention.co.uk>  
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SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DIVISION



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### **DON'T GIVE A THIEF A HELPING HAND THIS SPRING**

**Thursday 29 March 2007**

**Homeowners are being reminded not to make it easy for thieves by leaving their windows and doors open.**

As the weather gets warmer people will begin to spend more time outside in the garden or leaving doors and windows open to let air into the house.

Nigel Turner, who leads on crime reduction for the South Nottinghamshire Division of Nottinghamshire Police, advises: "Take a common sense approach this Spring to beat the burglar. For example, make sure if you're in the back garden that your front door isn't open or unlocked. Similarly, if you're upstairs make sure your windows or doors downstairs aren't open.

"Take advantage of safety features you most likely already have. If you want to let air into your house use the safety catches on your windows that only allow them to open a certain distance or the door chain on the door.

He continues: "Open or unlocked windows and doors are an open invitation for sneak-in burglars. It only takes a few minutes for a thief to grab things like car keys, mobile phones, handbags or wallets. Over the past week (Thursday 22 March - Thursday 29 March 2007) sneak in thieves have targeted 11 properties in Carlton, West Bridgford, Newthorpe, Chilwell, Arnold, Beeston, Mapperley Plains and Gamston."

**More...**

**SB2...**

Unlocked sheds or sheds with poor security are also a welcome sight for thieves. With a prospective haul of mountain bikes, sporting equipment, gardening tools and lawnmowers inside them it's easy to see why 6 were broken into over the same period in Mapperley, Attenborough, Stapleford, Carlton, East Leake and Nuthall.

Nigel says: "It's worth looking at your most expensive items and consider if the shed is the best place to keep them. Also check your insurance policy, as most will either not cover items stolen from a shed or there'll be a large excess to pay."

The good news is that a number of measures can be taken to protect your property. Shed alarms can be purchased from wholesalers or some Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators sell security products. Good quality security lighting around the shed, wire mesh or bars over the windows and good external locks on the door act as deterrents. Putting gravel around the shed and planting spiky bushes around it will put thieves off too.

Make sure valuables are kept in a secure building but if the shed is the only storage space ensure items are etched with your postcode or house number. You should also chain and padlock valuables together and secure to an anchor point. It may also help to join or form a Neighbourhood Watch in your area.

**More...**

SB3...

A number of crime reduction initiatives are being carried out across the division to help people improve their security. Leaflets containing advice and information about protecting sheds are available in garden centres and from police stations, as will certain retailers who sell sheds. Funding from Gedling, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships has enabled Smartwater to be available to residents of those boroughs at reduced cost. Smartwater, a property-marking tool, helps fight burglary by linking owners with their possessions and criminals to the crime scene. Smartwater leaflets are being distributed to homes and businesses across the division.

**ENDS**

- Interviews are available with Nigel Turner on 07971217704 or Peter Ainley, Crime Reduction Manager for Rushcliffe on 07786027800.

- Contact details for Nottinghamshire Police crime reduction managers:

Rushcliffe Peter Ainley 0115 940 0999 ext 6269

Gedling Robert Vaughan-Newton 0115 940 0999 ext 6650

Broxtowe James White 0115 940 0999 ext 5650

- Smartwater is available at reduced rates from:

Rushcliffe - John Lennard, Runway Neighbourhood Watch 07982130405

Gedling - 1<sup>st</sup> Access Locksmiths, Mapperley 0115 9676466 Broxtowe- Action Alarms,

Eastwood 01773 531442

Fox Electrical, Beeston 0115 9221005

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