

South Nottinghamshire
Division



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POLICE

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Dear Rushcliffe resident,

Do you feel that you could take any further steps to increase the protection of your property?

The purpose of this letter is to inform you on simple and cost effective methods to maximise your home security.

An encouraging point to make is that burglary can be very preventable, as many burglars are opportunists looking for the easiest way to enter your property. Did you know that one in four burglaries are a result of a door or window being left open? So why not make it a lot more difficult for them? In this correspondence I have included South Nottinghamshire Police's top tips to safeguard your property.

The single most cost effective way to protect your home is to fit an alarm. Two out of three homes in South Nottinghamshire are not fitted with an alarm- which is a worrying statistic baring in mind there are over 144,000 properties in the area (Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Gedling). It is a common misconception that alarms are very expensive but in reality the average house alarm costs in the region of £300-£400. Compared to the value of your possessions this may not seem too great an expense.

The effects of a burglary are upsetting and infuriating but by working together with other members of your local community this crime can be easily prevented. Have you considered introducing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area? They encourage people to look out for each other and share crime prevention tips. Overleaf are details of how to join Neighbourhood Watch schemes in your area along with details on Rushcliffe Community Watch, a free service where residents and police can share information on criminal activity within the area.

Finally, why not attend our free crime exposition at Holme Pierrepont National Watersports Centre and receive advice from the experts on home security on Tuesday 10th October from 2-8pm (see details attached).

Together we can all continue to make sure Rushcliffe remains a safe place to live.

Yours Sincerely,

Inspector Glenn Harper

Top tips to prevent a burglary in your home....

Tip: House alarm- Consider having a house alarm fitted, as this is the single most effective way to prevent a burglary

Tip: Lock up to keep burglars out – If you are not in a room make sure that windows are closed. It is also a good idea to keep doors locked even if you are in the house.

Tip: The lights are on but is there anybody home? Why not use a timer switch to turn lights on when you're out of the house to create the impression that there is someone in.

Tip: In the spotlight- Consider fitting an outdoor light that is sensitive to movement.

Tip: Stranger at the door? Don't let them in without checking their identification carefully first against a letter you may have been sent. Also use the door spy hole, if fitted, to see who it is. We also highly recommend that you put the door chain on before you open the door even if you are expecting a visitor.

Other points to consider here are:

- If the visitor is from a genuine company the likelihood is that they will phone you prior to the visit. If they haven't ask them to contact you over the phone to arrange an appointment. Don't hand out your details though as a legitimate company will already have these and will not be offended by your request.
- If the visitor says they are carrying out building, gardening or work to driveways in the area, don't be pressurised into making a payment up front. If you think work needs doing, get a couple of quotes from other companies before proceeding. You can also check with the Trading Standards Office to see if the company is reputable.
- If the visitor claims to be from a utility company carrying out repair work never let them into your home. You can always check their details against those given in the phonebook. Don't allow them to panic you into letting them in.

Tip: See something suspicious? Perhaps an unfamiliar person is loitering on your road or in a neighbour's garden acting suspiciously. If this is the case telephone the police immediately.

Tip: Car key crime- When you get home ensure that your car keys are left out of sight and kept away from windows and doors.

Tip: Prickly Investment- Sharp leaved plants and bushes are a good way to prevent intruders getting to your shed or home easily.

Tip: Can you hear someone coming? Pebbled paths and driveways enable you to hear someone coming towards your property.

Other solutions for your security:

Neighbourhood Watch- The scheme enables neighbours to work together to prevent crime within their areas, supported by a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (NWC) who works at a nearby police station.

Contact: Wendy Morris, Neighbourhood Watch Office, West Bridgford Police Station, Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BN or email: wendy.morris@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk or telephone 0115 8446938

Rushcliffe Community Watch- The Rushcliffe Community Watch computer system works by sharing information between the police and the public, by sending messages via telephone and e-mail. It's free to join and members receive information on criminal activity and crime prevention advice, as well as sharing their own community information with the police.

At present members of Rushcliffe Community Watch are made up of people from parish councils to farmers, housing associations to neighbourhood watches. Schools, local businesses, licensed premises and members of the public have also joined up.

Rushcliffe Community Watch users have the option of deciding when and how they want to receive messages. It's easy to join, and is open to anyone who lives or works in the Rushcliffe area that wants to be warned about crime in the area.

Contact Rushcliffe Community Watch based at West Bridgford Police Station on 0115 844 6054 or log onto the website to register: www.rushcliffecommunitywatch.co.uk.

Crime Exposition- South Nottinghamshire Police along with other organisations will be holding a free crime prevention exposition at:

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**National Watersports Centre
Holme Pierrepont**
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**Tuesday 10 October 2006
2 - 8pm**
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Things to look out for include:

- Alarm and CCTV systems
- Garden and shed security
- Pet protection, adoption opportunities and micro- chipping from the RSCPA from £15
- Fire safety advice and products
- Insurance
- Locksmiths

Contact for further information:

Rushcliffe area Crime Prevention Manager Bob Vaughan Newton (based at Bingham police station) on 0115 940 0999 ext 6150