

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## BRIEFING SHEET

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### 'SHEDDING CRIME'

These days, people use sheds and garages as storage areas for things they don't have room for in the home. This means that a lot of valuables are stored in these areas.

This is why burglars target such buildings. The days of using sheds just for 'potting' plants have long gone. These days valuable tools and other equipment are stored instead.

The most popular items to be stolen are tools and garden equipment, as well as pedal cycles, electrical goods, building materials, alcohol, sports and camping equipment.

As these outbuildings are more isolated they need to be properly secured. Sussex Police produced a leaflet giving advice about 'shed' security. The leaflet entitled 'How safe is your garden' is available from Police Stations and the Neighbourhood Watch office.

It advises that sheds should have strap hinges secured by coach bolts and good quality padlocks should be fitted to a strong hasp and staple

which should have concealed fixings and recessed bolts.

Other considerations should be the fitting of burglar alarms, heat activated lighting and the post coding of property. Also, securing property together, using a high tensile steel cord hampers any thief.

People should also react to any barking dogs or unusual noises in the garden. The police should be alerted immediately if there are any suspicious circumstances.

### OPERATION TWILIGHT

In September we don't want to be thinking about darker evenings but as the days get shorter, particularly when the clocks go back, it gives the burglar more opportunities to identify empty houses.

Time switches should be used to light 'living' rooms when people don't get home until after dark due to still being at work or the shops. They are not that expensive and can even be used for playing the radio whilst you are out, making the house appear occupied.

## SELLER BEWARE

Many people sell items on the internet through such people as Ebay and Auto Trader. Some 'sellers' have been approached from abroad and have been sent money transfers for a sum greater than the asking price with a request for the balance to be sent to the buyer.

It then transpires that the money transfers are either stolen or forgeries!

## MICHAEL THOMPSON

Michael (Mick) is the new police Crime Prevention Co-ordinator for Arun District based at Bognor Police Station (01243 843636). After training he will be responsible for Neighbourhood Watch in that area.

## KNIFE AMNESTY

There are 3,718 knives that are not available to the criminal in Sussex. That's the number that were handed in during the recent amnesty.

In Chichester 140 were handed in, in Bognor 124, Manhood 60, Petworth 42 and Midhurst 33.

## SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Sussex Police has built a database which allows them to send messages to members of the public about particular subjects.

Messages may be sent by the Chief Constable, senior officers or the local district commander. To register go to [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk) and click onto 'subscription service'.

## POLICE / COMMUNITY SUCCESS

In Norfolk Way at Elmer a window was smashed. Police were called and two people were arrested.

Three males were seen jumping on cars in Whyke Lane at Chichester. Police were called and arrested the offender.

A driver smashed the window of another vehicle in Plover Close at Bognor. Police were informed and a male was arrested.

Two nurses returned to their cars at King Edward VII Hospital in Midhurst and saw a couple acting suspiciously. Police were advised and located their vehicle in Fernhurst, which had been stolen, and arrested the couple.

In Hillsboro Road at Bognor two men were seen breaking into cars. They ran off and after a search, the police arrested two men.

A call from Stein Road at Southbourne about a man breaking a window resulted in police arresting the offender.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency.....999  
(Crime taking place/suspicious person)

Non-emergency.....0845 60 70 999  
or *contact\_centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk*  
(Abandoned car/doorstep caller)

Crimestoppers.....0800 555 111  
(Anonymous crime information)

Neighbourhood Watch.01243 520347  
(Administration/support)

Phil Marten – Crime Prevention Co-ordinator