## Newsletter from Evesham Rural North Policing <u>Team</u>

## **Shed Security**

- Put away all tools and equipment and lock up. We would advise not to leave power tools in the shed.
- Replace standard hinges with strap hinges secured by coach bolts or use security screws on existing hinges.
- A tough pad bar or hasp and staple fitted with a strong padlock and secured with coach bolts is an effective way of securing a shed door.
   To strengthen bolts supplement them with metal or wood backing plate so the bolts cannot be wrenched through the shed wall/door.
- Fit an alarm. These can cost less than you think. You can purchase a
  battery operated one from your local DIY store. The web sites below
  might give you some ideas for these alarms.
- Fit a window grille and/or frosted window film or curtains to stop a thief seeing if you have anything worth stealing.
- Chain tools and other valuable equipment together using high security chain or cable and a good quality padlock. Lockable tool racks are also available and are a good idea.
- It may also be an idea to display solar lighting around the area and crime prevention signage.
- Mark all of your items with your house number and postcode using a permanent marker pen. You may also want to consider property marking options such as Smartwater.

## Leave a light on and keep your home safe and secure Lighten up!

Most house break-ins are opportunistic.

Don't give thieves a chance!

House burglaries remain relatively low in West Mercia - less than 1% of homes are burgled each year. However, when it is dark outside, unlit houses can be a target for thieves. You can significantly reduce the chance of your home being burgled by taking a few simple precautions:

- A well-lit home gives the impression that someone is in.
- Use timer switches to turn lights on while you are out.
- Save energy and money with low-energy or dusk to dawn sensor light bulbs. A low-energy bulb costs less than 5p per week to run (if left on for six hours each day).
- Lock windows and doors and keep gates well secured.
- Invest in external lighting.

For more practical home security tips, visit: www.westmercia.police.uk

To register valuable items of property such as bikes and mobile phones etc, visit: <a href="https://www.immobilise.com">www.immobilise.com</a>

For more information on the property marking system 'Smartwater' please contact your local NHW co-ordinator or Sharon Summers at <a href="mailto:epnwa@live.co.uk">epnwa@live.co.uk</a>

Shed alarms are available at the Contact Centre, Abbey Road, Evesham. They cost £3.58 and can be adapted for many uses by lengthening the cord the pin is attached to. They emit a loud alarm once the pin is removed and can be quite disorientating.

<u>Please do not report incidents via this email address</u>. If you wish to report any <u>new</u> non emergency incidents please call <u>101</u> at the time of the incident occurring.

In an emergency always call 999.