

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AS THE NIGHTS GET DARKER AND LONGER.....

Recent burglaries in the Village should focus our attention on the priorities needed to secure our homes and lifestyle. Here are a few thoughts on how we might achieve that.

- 1 Think like a burglar. Pretend to be a burglar yourself, and try to think of ways to break into your own home. Study your home and observe any weaknesses in its security.
- 2 Lock your doors. Even if you have grown up in a place where it was ok to leave your door open, the world is different now. Many burglars only enter homes when they find a door unlocked.
- 3 Lock the windows. Ground level windows and sliding doors are easy to open from the outside. A slightly more motivated thief will check.
- 4 Lock garage doors. Garage doors provide access into your home, so treat them as any other door, make sure there are locked properly, as well as the door that leads from the garage into the home.
- 5 Leave the lights on, TV and Stereo on. When you go out, leave a light on in any room or invest in a light timer to automatically turn on the lights at whatever time you want. Let the thief hesitate about breaking in.
- 6 Don't leave notes on the door. For example, "Hi delivery company, I won't be home all day, just leave the package by the back door." To a burglar, that says, "Hi Thief, I'm not home for the day so you can help yourself."
- 7 Close curtains. Keep curtains closed in rooms with expensive equipment that could give burglars a peek into your home.
- 8 Report strange things to the Police. If you see a strange vehicle driving through the neighborhood several times a day, REPORT IT! If someone is sitting in their car parked in your street for a long time, REPORT IT ! DO NOT MAKE AN APPROACH!!!! Contact 101 or your neighborhood watch.
- 9 Install security lighting at the front and back of your home. It is harder for a thief to break in if there are lights placed at entry points to your home.
- 10 Get an alarm system. If a burglar manages to break into your home, an alarm system could deter him from proceeding. (All 4 recent Dry Drayton burglaries were at houses which had NO lights, NO alarms and NO one home. They were watching the village.)

These are a few things to think about. There have been many other burglaries in villages surrounding Dry Drayton, so to prevent this happening in the future think about what you can do to help your home.

Also if you want to help the Neighborhood Watch scheme by just keeping your eyes open, either contact me for further information, or observe your village and pick up the telephone and contact 101 (Police general), 999 (Police emergency) or Neighborhood Watch.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS

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