

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



To: Residents of Drayton St Leonard

AN INVITATION TO JOIN DRAYTON ST LEONARD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (DSL NHW)

(join by emailing neighbourhood.watch@draytonstleonard.co.uk or replying to this email)

At the recent Drayton St Leonard Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Malcolm Wills, a retired policeman of much experience and now Crime Prevention Advisor for South Oxfordshire based at Wallingford Police Station spoke on "Is your home security as good as you think it is?". Prior to the talk we decided or confirmed the Coordinators and Deputies who will now be running DSL NHW.

The DSL NHW was formed in 2006 in response to a request from the Parish Council. NHW Scheme Coordinator Carol Rudd held a meeting which resulted in its formation. More detail is available on the Village Website www.draytonstleonard.co.uk, click on 'Noticeboard' or 'Discussions'.

The talk at the meeting was interesting, relevant and sparked a good discussion. Here is a summary for those of you unable to come. I've put this on the Village Website Discussion Forum (go to www.draytonstleonard.co.uk and click on 'Discussions'), please respond there or by email.

Neighbourhood Watch Public Meeting Thu16Feb2012

If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to add them to the 'Discussions' forum on the village website, or email me at Neighbourhood.Watch@Draytonstleonard.co.uk.

First we decided on the Coordinators and Deputies, mostly the same people, welcome to the new ones.

Please feel free to contact any of us for more information about the DSL NHW.

Overall Coordinator - Steve Cox,

Overall Deputies - Charles Dickerson and David Watkin.

High Street, Coordinator David Hinde. Deputy Vicky Johnson.

Dorchester Road, Coordinator Steve Cox, Deputy Maggie Atkins.

The Osiers, Coordinator John Northover

Church Lane, Coordinator Charles Dickerson.

Water Lane, Coordinator David Watkin, Deputy Dick Atkinson.

Ford Lane, Coordinator Amy Herlihy.

Stadhampton Road & Drayton View, Coordinator Amanda Welbelove, (possible deputy David/Julie Rusher to be confirmed)

Then Malcolm Wills spoke on "Is your Home Security as good as you think it is?"

Here are his key points.

Keep criminals out of your house by good surroundings - open plan front garden, clear sight of front door from road, prickly bushes/hedges (berberis, pyrocanthus), side gate to have 2 bolts, top & bottom, secured from inside garden. 2m fence with cheap trellis on top and prickly vegetation (eg roses) threaded through. If possible keep fence to back garden visible from road also, to deter people climbing over.

Smartwater marking for lead (expensive), uv marking (wears out - needs frequent re-marking), anti climb paint (above 8ft).

House alarm - two kinds, alarm noise only or signal to control centre too. Cost now come down, around £600/ 3-4bed house with detectors in all possible entry point rooms.

Distraction burglaries - especially when targeting old people - keep alert, keep a watch out for elderly.

Outdoor Key Safe? (must be out of clear sight).

'for bad people to thrive needs only for good people to do nothing' - ignoring crime such as fuel theft from petrol stations attracts criminals to the area who will then look round for opportunities.

Shed security - hasp with no visible screws, shielded padlock, possible shed alarm. Burglars don't carry tools, they get them from shed or pick up spades etc left outside to break into the house. They will steal mowers, power

To report a crime in progress or about to be committed, or if there is a risk of injury or worse, call **999**.

Otherwise to report an incident, call the new NON EMERGENCY Police number **101**, stating you are a member of the Drayton St Leonard Neighbourhood Watch.

To give information, or find out more about a message, call **101**, stating that you are responding to a Ringmaster message. If the message has a URN (Unique Reference Number) please be sure to quote it. If no URN is given, tell that to the operator.

tools, hedge trimmers, bikes. Oil tanks - not a problem in this area at present, padlock? plastic tanks, can't make thiefproof as they could cut hole through. Shield tank (vegetation) to hide from road.
Opportunistic crime - good practice and simple precautions will deter effectively.
Organised crime - metal theft, oil theft, tractor/machine theft (Eastern Europe), catalytic converter theft - harder to fight but police will focus on such outbreaks.
Metal theft the main problem at present - goes to China.
Locks - use BS3621 five lever mortise locks - don't overcomplicate doors with so many locks it makes a safety hazard in fires,
Lighting - timed lights indoors very good. Motion sensing lights outside good for safely getting to front door, might light way for burglars too unless neighbours investigate.
Flytipping - SODC, environment officials + Chalgrove Neighbourhood Policing.
Malcolm brought some new leaflets, and Carol Rudd supplied some too, they were on display. Let me know if you'd like any, they can be seen on the Internet too,
Secure Your Sheds Garages & Outbuildings, Thames Valley Police, 4pp, very relevant to Malcolm's advice.
Be Safe Be Secure (2005 & 2009 editions), Home Office, 38pp, good solid advice.
Good Ideas, Home Office (Neighbourhood Watch), 24pp, Interesting ideas.
Community Action Against Crime, COI/Home Office (Neighbourhood Watch), 12pp, NHW basics.
101 card, police non-emergency telephone number, TV police information.
Any remaining leaflets I'll put on display at the Parish Council/Village Plan/Questionnaire response 'Have Your Say' meeting held by PCSO Chris Ratcliff on 17th March from 11am - 12 noon at the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

A later topic came in:

Identity theft - think about using a shredder and shred anything with any personal details on it at all. Identity theft is a growing problem in some parts of the country.

If you would like to join please email me at Neighbourhood.Watch@DraytonStLeonard.co.uk . Most activity is by email.

Yours,

Stephen D. Cox
DHL NHW Coordinator

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Get these bulletins sooner by enrolling with Ringmaster at <https://www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org> or email your request to Neighbourhood.Watch@DraytonStLeonard.co.uk