Police Liaison Representative update
Parish Council Meeting June 4 2024

Neighbourhood Watch June newsletter

June's edition of the national Neighbourhood Watch newsletter is out – link below.
Read the Neighbourhood Watch June newsletter here.

Included in this month's newsletter:

- Neighbourhood Watch Week is held across the first week of June. It kicked off with The Big Lunch over the first weekend of June, with plenty of activity during the rest of the week.

- Nominations are requested for the Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024 (nominations close on 30th June).
  Click here to vote.

- Issue 7 of The Lookout is out, full of advice and perspectives from students on safety and well-being.
  Click here to read it.

- The Our Watch website gets a fresh look from Thursday 6th June.
  Click here to visit the site.

- **Patlock** offers NW members an extra discount from 24th - 30th June, to celebrate the Month of Community

- **SimpliSafe** offers advice on securing your home during the summer months

Five Years of Northamptonshire Police's Specialist Burglary Team

Launched in April 2019, Operation Crooked is the Force's campaign to reduce burglary. Two specialist burglary teams cover both the north and west of the county and sit within CID.

Key facts about Operations Crooked:

- Every burglary victim is visited by the police
- Burglaries as a whole are down by 50.2%
- Residential burglaries in Northamptonshire down by 46.7%
- Commercial burglaries reduced by 56.4%
- 3,061 fewer victims
- Prolific offenders sent to jail
- Victim satisfaction up at 77%

Last year alone, home invasion burglaries have fallen by 6.1% and commercial burglaries are down by 5%.

Warning After Fake Police Caller in Daventry

'If you're not sure, don't open the door'

Northamptonshire Police is issuing a reminder that genuine police officers carry full photographic ID and can be verified by calling 101.

This reminder follows a suspected attempted distraction burglary in Daventry.

The incident happened at around 7.40pm on Wednesday, May 29, when a man rang the doorbell of a home claiming he was a police officer and needed to come in so that he could check the rear garden for a potential suspect.

The man had no official ID and was turned away by the householder who was suspicious of his behaviour. He is described as a white man of stocky build with brown hair, wearing a high-vis jacket with the word police on it, a surgical face mask, gloves, and black trousers.

The incident was reported to Northamptonshire Police who confirmed the man was not a police officer. A 34-year-old man from the Luton area was arrested in connection with this incident.

It is being investigated as an attempted distraction burglary, where offenders use fake ID or distraction techniques to gain entry to a property to commit crime. As a result of the incident, the Force is encouraging people to **refuse entry** to unexpected callers who cannot be independently verified as genuine. Please share this advice with elderly or vulnerable relatives and neighbours.

Protect against distraction burglary

Distraction burglars pretend to be someone they are not to gain entry to your home.

Common methods used by distraction burglars include:

- Pretending to be from the police, a care agency, the council, or a utility company investigating a gas or water leak.
- Asking to leave a note for a neighbour or even asking for a drink of water if they claim to be thirsty or unwell.
- Claiming to be in a hurry or emergency and needing to get into your home quickly.
- Working in teams, with one person distracting you while the other searches your home.

How to protect against distraction burglaries

The most important thing to remember is to keep the front door closed and locked - once the door is opened, the barrier to keeping them out has gone.

- Instead of opening your door to doorstep callers, speak to them through a window or even the letterbox.

- **Don't bother** to check ID cards – they will be fake if the caller is not who they say they are.
- If someone calls at your home claiming to be a police officer, check them out by calling 101 and giving their name and collar number to the call handler.
- Set up passwords with utility companies so you know if they are genuine when they call.
- If you have a Wi-Fi connection at home, you may like to consider installing a smart/CCTV doorbell at your front door. You can set it up so that when activated, the alert can be received on a family member/friend's mobile phone who can then talk to the caller directly and raise the alarm if necessary.

Other useful tips

- Display a 'No Cold Calling Home' sticker
- Keep the outside of your property well maintained
- Don't keep large amounts of cash at home
- Consider a lifeline pendant alarm to call for assistance

Remember
There is no need to open the door to unexpected callers – it's OK to send them away.

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, DON'T OPEN THE DOOR

Motorhome attempted theft in Welford

In the early hours of Tuesday 21 May, there was an attempted theft of a motorhome in Welford. Police appealed for witnesses (posted to the Sibbertoft Social WhatsApp group).