

Hello this is Melita Diprose C9693 here, one of your local police community support officers. Over the darker winter months our property can become more susceptible to crime, so I just wanted to take a few moments to pass on some crime prevention advice.

Target hardening is where you make it more difficult for a burglar to access your property and discourage them from trying- some good examples being CCTV, good locks on the doors, having a gravel path which creates noise that discourages burglars, as does other things such as motion-sensing lights & visible and active burglar alarms.

You want others to be able to see if someone is trying to access you property so they can report it- keep hedges low so the burglars have nowhere to hide. Keep bins away from fences & gates so they can't be used to climb over them, and ensure that the gates are kept securely locked.

It is a common tactic to have one person distract residents at the front door while someone comes in through the back door to access the property so keep doors locked when not in use. Keep keys out of sight & out of reach- often burglars will try to access properties by using keys as smashing the glass on windows & doors attracts a lot of attention.

You can also make it hard to tell whether someone is on or not- set up light timers so lights turn on in the evening and the same thing with radios. Look into purchasing a "fake TV" with LEDs to simulate a television to further convince people you are home.

Target removal- keep valuables out of sight & secured away. This goes for cars as well- most theft from motor vehicles is done in order to take visible items such as money, jewellery and sunglasses in the front of cars that can be seen through the windows. You should always keep records of the serial numbers of valuables & have pictures of them, so that if stolen they can be identified by the police as being your property, and also mark your property with your name and address- especially on computers, tools and bikes.

HomeSecuritySurveyRequests@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

To contact our neighbourhood team send an email on <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>

For non-emergency crimes contact 101

For Regular updates about crime and disorder In your area, please sign up to Thames Valley Alert by visiting <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk>

Best wishes

PCSO, Melita Diprose, C9693