

## IMPORTANT! BURGLARIES IN LEWES DISTRICT

**Please Note:** This message was intended to raise your awareness around your own and your neighbours properties but it was not intended to worry you. Year on year we have seen reductions. From this time last year we are still seeing a 7% reduction. Lewes District has the fewest burglaries of any area in Sussex....this amounts to about one every three days across the entire District. However, any are too many and over the last month we have had two in Seaford and two in Lewes where electrical goods have been stolen. Hence our crime prevention advice. So please be vigilant and if you see anything suspicious report it.

*Natalie Moloney, District Commander*

There has been a rise in burglaries across our District (Seaford, Lewes Town and Lewes Rural) **especially during daytime**, - cash, jewellery and electrical goods stolen.

### Crime Prevention Advice

#### **Please Secure Your Home**

Sadly, it's now October and with the autumn evenings approaching, it is time to focus on keeping your home secure. Leaving your home during hours of darkness, without putting on lights or drawing curtains, indicates to the opportunist criminal that there is no-one home. Unfortunately, every year sees a spate of early evening burglaries associated with the clocks going back. Please help us to help you by taking the steps outline below:

- Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road, or upstairs. Regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Put a time switch on a radio that has been turned to a chat station, this will give the impression that the house is occupied. Again, regularly change the timing switch.
- Fit security lighting, either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or brighter passive infrared activated lighting drawing attention to movement.
- Ensure that gates or access to the rear of the house are locked and secure. Don't forget to lock your shed; your tools can be used to break in. Trim overgrown plants – don't give burglars a hiding place.
- Secure windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor. Use locks and bolts and keep all your keys, including car keys, out of sight and out of reach.
- Property mark your valuables by using your postcode and your house number and take photos of valuables – with a ruler in view to show scale.
- Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system ensure it is the one most suitable for your needs.
- If you see anything suspicious let us know – We are asking that members of the public stay vigilant and report immediately any persons or vehicles acting suspicious (this includes cold callers / door knockers). Please do try and provide as much information to the call handler such as:

Type of vehicle – colour, make, model, registration and direction of travel.

Persons – description - approx age, height, hair colour, clothing worn, tattoos.

- Join the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Please pass this advice to those older and vulnerable people in your family and community.

**Please close all windows and secure your property all times.**