



Dear Resident

### **BURGLARIES**

As you will have seen on our e-cops messages we have been experiencing a series of **Dwelling Burglaries** in the rural villages.

Most are in village locations often where the property can be approached from the rear across playing fields or open land. The offenders have a way of determining that the premises is not occupied which has a high success rate. They use a jemmy to open rear upvc windows to gain access. They perform an untidy search and steal mainly cash and gold jewellery.

We are carrying out additional patrols in both marked and unmarked vehicles and are analysing these crimes for trends and gathering forensic evidence. We are also checking known second-hand jewellery outlets.

If you have expensive jewellery or family heirlooms in the house make sure that they are covered by your home insurance. Keep records of their purchase if possible and take a photograph and keep it with a brief written description of each item. Property can be registered for free on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

Anyone who leaves their property empty should make arrangements with friends/neighbours to come in on a daily basis to remove post and/or flyers pushed through or hanging from letterboxes. Curtains should be closed in the evening and opened in the morning and timers should be used to switch on lamps to give the impression that someone is at home. **If we all look out for each other we can reduce crime.**

Security of upvc windows, especially older ones, can be enhanced by fitting "sash jammers" which can be retro-fitted to all styles and makes of upvc windows for around £14 per pair (one window) by window-fitting companies. It may only be necessary to fit these to downstairs windows unless there is access to upstairs windows via a flat roof or attached garage block. They will still allow windows to open for ventilation or safety (eg fire escape) by turning a catch.

Finally, we need your help in identifying suspects - please be aware of suspicious activity in your neighbourhood and contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary on tel: 101 or contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team via E-Cops, if you have any information to that effect. Ring 999 if it is happening at the time.

To register for E-Cops, a two-way interactive e-mail messaging system, please log onto the Cambridgeshire Constabulary Website and click on the E-Cops icon. You will then receive a weekly crime update specific to your locality and regular updates and crime prevention information from your local Policing Team at St Neots Police Station.