

## November 2008 Newsletter

### Wing South

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) PC Jared Levens gives this month's Neighbourhood Newsletter for Wing South:

At the end of October saw my arrival as Wing South's new Neighbourhood Specialist Officer. I'm sure you will join me and PCSO's Jackie Dodson and Christine Baker in thanking PC Sarah Jepp (Astley) for all her fantastic hard work that she put into keeping this area safe and solving the issues you brought to the attention of the Wing South Neighbourhood team. We wish her well in her new role.

I am looking forward to building on the good work that Sarah, Jackie and Christine have made. Having been a rural response officer for the past 15 months I am very much aware of the issues you currently face and I know that each village has its own difficulties and concerns. Despite the different priorities that each village hold, I know that we can work together in preventing and solving crime and in developing safer neighbourhoods.

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November we have our Police Surgery at the Town Hall in Ivinghoe from 7-8pm. Please use this opportunity to come along and explain any issues that you feel we can help you with. This surgery is an excellent opportunity for residents to speak to their Wing South Team on a one to one basis. Remember that if we are not aware, we cannot help. If you can't make this evening then we will be holding additional surgeries in the future which we will publicise in due course. In the mean time you can always call, email or stop us in the street to talk to us. Alternatively you can call crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

We are always looking for ways to improve our service to the people in our neighbourhood. If you have any concerns or comments on how we can improve your neighbourhood then contact us on 0845 8 505 505

Over the Halloween and Firework period the Wing South neighbourhood team conducted extensive patrols to prevent and control any anti social behaviour occurring. We were fortunate this year that the weather assisted in keeping people indoors but I'd like to feel that although the weather played its part, it was our visible presence and your phone calls that helped keep problems to a minimum. In the Wing South area we had three reports of criminal damage in Pitstone and two in Eddlesborough. This is extremely low compared to past years which is pleasing to see. Our quick response to these incidents have helped us identify suspects for some of these offences and they are currently being investigated.

May I finish with some crime prevention advice...At this time of year, burglars will look to take advantage of the darker evenings. Householders need to think about what sort of impression an opportunist burglar will have of their home. By taking some simple and inexpensive steps to make your home look lived in, you will dramatically reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary.

#### **Look**

- Be sure all valuables are out of view from doors, windows and letter-boxes.

- Burglars are opportunists and will break into your home if they spot something they want as they walk by.
- Keep all valuables such as TVs and laptops out of sight from doors and windows but don't forget about your letterboxes. Thieves will use various objects to grab what they can through your letterbox including house or vehicle keys so keep everything out of reach and sight. Don't let the burglar window-shop your valuables.

### **Lights**

- Use energy saving lights with timers to make your home look occupied.
- Homes that don't look occupied after dark are a target for burglary, especially during the autumn and winter months. When the clocks go back and the nights grow longer, use energy saving lights with timers to make your home look occupied especially when you're away.
- Use a motion sensor doorstep light that will warn you and your neighbours when someone is at your home during the night. Don't let the burglar go undetected.

### **Lock**

- Always double-lock doors even when you're home. Remove keys from locks and put them out of sight. Lock your windows when you leave the room.
- Open doors and windows are open invitations to burglars. Thieves don't like a challenge. Simple window locks can put them off. Be sure all doors and windows are locked when you're home and especially when you're out. Thieves can open your front door from the inside using various objects through the letterbox.
- Always double-lock your door or get a letterbox guard. Don't let the burglar walk right in.

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reduction/saferhomes/homesecurity/content.htm>