



**HARROGATE & DISTRICT  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**  
Helping to protect over 10,000 homes

## **BACK TO BASIC HOME SECURITY**

A number of recent burglaries could have been prevented if basic Home Security had been followed. I would therefore like to remind you of the basics. I hope you will read this article and if you feel you should do more, please take action now.

Everyone should ensure that their property complies with a basic security that all homes should have. All external doors and ground floor windows must have proper locks suitable for the type of frame. Any other windows or point of entry which are accessible such as those above flat roofs, should also be secure.

During the summer months many of us like windows left open most of the time. This is not a good idea if you leave your house unoccupied.

I know it is a bind to shut all windows each time you go out but it is better to be safe than sorry. External doors in addition to having a good quality deadlock must have a door chain and should also have a door viewer. Keep keys out of door locks and out of sight.

Lighting is also very important both inside your house and out. It is essential that you give the impression that someone is at home. Table lamps can have time switches plugged in and left on permanently so that for whatever reason you do not switch on at dusk, they are still activated automatically. Similarly, exterior sensor lights should give lighting to vulnerable areas to the side and rear of your property to prevent anyone skulking there.

Very often, even with all the above security equipment, householders still fall foul to confidence tricksters by being gullible and failing to check out strangers before opening the door. These people prey on the elderly and infirm knowing they cannot physically resist.

Remember, many of your valuable possessions could have sentimental value far above a monetary one and can never be replaced.