

CHRISTMAS CARE (December)

Christmas is fast approaching. The number of shopping days is rapidly declining – a fact that you do not need reminding about. Many presents will already be wrapped waiting for that special person. Unfortunately, they are much sought after by thieves. Extra vigilance is needed at this time of year. To have your Christmas presents stolen is a disaster as those who have had them stolen in the past will testify.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Looking at all the Christmas trees lit up in house windows is a splendid sight that helps to brighten up our lives during the dull winter nights.

However, a little care should be taken as to where you site your tree so that potential thieves cannot see into your room and all the presents around the tree. It is a great temptation to the burglar if he can see what is available before he breaks in.

Make sure your home is secure when you are out. If you will not be back until after dark, it is a good idea to have a light come on and/or TV or radio so that your house appears to be occupied. There are now many time switches or light sensitive switches that can be plugged into your usual socket. These are readily available and not too expensive – a good investment as they last a long time.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

If you are going away over the festive season, remember to cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc. Try to make sure your house looks occupied. Closed curtains in the daytime make it look as if no-one is at home. See if your good neighbour will pop in and draw curtains and put the lights on in the evening and open them again in the morning and put the lights out.

MONEY AND PLASTIC CARDS

Don't make it easy for pickpockets, carry your wallet in an inside pocket, preferably one which can be fastened but not your back pocket.

Never let your handbag out of your sight. Keep hold of it with the clasp or zip shut and the opening facing inwards if possible.

MOBILE PHONES

Theft of mobile phones is on the increase. Keep your phone out of sight whether in the street or in a restaurant.

Always be aware of the people around you in a busy area.