

## **THE CRIME TRIANGLE** (Anytime)

For a crime to successfully take place, there needs to be three essential ingredients. These are best illustrated by a triangle, known as the crime opportunity triangle. It requires firstly, a committed offender intent on stealing. Secondly, a victim or owner of property and thirdly, a suitable opportunity to commit the offence.

If any of these three aspects can be removed, then the triangle will not stand up and the offence cannot then take place.

Two of these three ingredients will always be present. We cannot remove all the offenders or even potential offenders. Nor can we remove all the victims. We can however, remove or at least lower, the opportunity for an offence to take place.

For example, last year a considerable number of burglaries of houses in our area were not forced entry break-ins. Rather, they were sneak-ins through an unlocked door or window. Home owners could, by being more security conscious, decrease the burglary rate at a stroke.