



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

LOCK UP OR LOSE IT

One of the easiest things to do is leave the garage door open for a short time. Maybe to get the mower out, the kids' toys etc. When you return you could find that you have been robbed.

The average contents of a garage without the car are worth about £2,000, quite a tidy sum for a thief to get their hands on.

A recent survey showed that one out of ten garage doors had a lock but 14% of those surveyed said they frequently left them unlocked and unattended.

Many garages have a door leading into the house giving thieves easy access and unseen, to all your possessions.

Unfortunately, those who faithfully lock their garage can also be vulnerable as the survey found that many garage locks were not up to the standard of house front or back door locks.

Now is a good time to check and improve your garage security. If you are in the habit of leaving your garage door unlocked, please try to break the habit – it could be to your advantage.

VEHICLE CRIME

Although there has been a decrease in vehicle crime in the district it is still a major concern. A recent spate of cars broken into had goods stolen from them., Remember that your vehicle I like a shop window for thieves. If you can see any of your property left in the vehicle so can the thief. If you leave any items in your vehicle you are inviting the opportunist criminal to steal them. An old coat left on the back seat of your car on a wet day could become a desirable item.

Think carefully where you leave your car keys. If a thief can steal them then they can steal your car. Keys are regularly stolen from kitchens, hall tables, key hooks, handbags, workplaces and even from the ignitions of cars. Your keys are the same value as your car, put them out of sight and in a safe place.

To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch, visit our new website:
www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk which has all the information you need to set up a new scheme or make contact with your local association.

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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