



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

New Season, Old Problems (Clocks Forward)

After the cold, wet weather we have had lately, the seasons march on. The grass has already started to grow, the gardening season will soon be with us.

The other day when I was in the DIY shop for some bits and pieces I noticed that they were setting out the gardening display with dozens of grass cutting machines and some very exotic electrical and power machinery, all designed to take the hard work out of gardening. No doubt we will be purchasing some of this equipment to help ease the pain and give us some more time to enjoy our garden. Maybe erect a gazebo or purchase some other garden furniture.

Unfortunately, thieves also come out at this time of year as they see some easy pickings of new and expensive gardening equipment that are easily saleable. If you are offered a bargain of gardening equipment, please make sure you know where it has come from. To buy from a thief only encourages him to steal again.

Next time it could be you who is the victim.

Timber sheds provide useful economical storage but they are not designed to be a security container and in their basic form offer little or no defence against theft. So, are you going to put all your expensive gardening equipment into your timber shed?

If so, please take into account the following:

Security of sheds can be improved if you:

- Use a good closed shackle heavy-duty padlock with the lock fitting bolted through the door and frame and reinforce with a steel plate behind. The hasp should have concealed screws or bolts
- Strengthen the fabric of the building, place mesh or bars on the inside of the windows
- Think about using battery powered alarms as a useful addition. If you have mains electricity in your shed you could link it into your house alarm if you have one
- Lock your shed and/or outbuildings at all times and keep the keys safe and secure.