

## **Spend Spend Spend (Nov/Dec)**

We are now into the pre-Christmas spending season but unfortunately, this is also the time for sneak thieves to earn their Christmas spending money. As you are probably about and about at this time, excited about buying presents for your loved ones or worrying about what to buy and trying to keep within your budget, the last thing you think about is a thief sneaking up on you and it only takes a moment to make off with your valuables.

Your coat hung up in a restaurant; your briefcase or hand bag left beside your chair, even your cheque book or credit cards left on a table – all are vulnerable if you look away for a second. So do be careful at all times.

## **Money and Plastic Cards**

Do not make it easy for pickpockets. Carry your wallet in an inside pocket, preferably one which can be fastened but not your back pocket. If someone bumps into you in a crowd, check immediately to see you still have your wallet or purse.

Cash is a favourite target for thieves so tries to avoid carrying large amounts.

## **Handbags**

Never let your handbag out of your site. On public transport keep hold of it with the clasp or zip shut and the opening facing inwards if possible so that a thief cannot steal your purse.

Even in a car keep it out of site if you have your window open or a door unlocked. A thief may reach in when you stop at traffic lights.

## **Mobile Phones**

Theft of mobile phones is on the increase as more and more people use them, keep your phone out of sight whether in the car or in the street.

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

Lastly enjoy your spending – giving is better than receiving.