

## Stay aware



The following has been reported by local residents:

- 1) A knock on the door late at night after 10pm but when they opened the door there was nobody around.
- 2) Doors to out buildings that had been shut at night open in the morning with footprints.

It would be useful to consider the following advice.

### 1. Keep gifts out of view

Whether wrapped or unwrapped, don't store any gifts in places where they can be easily seen or found. We understand Christmas is all about tradition, but it's very wise to avoid leaving gifts under the tree. Keeping them out of sight removes the temptation for a criminal to try their luck.

### 2. Make your home look occupied

Even if you are only popping out for a couple of minutes, taking simple measures such as leaving a light or radio on will help create the illusion someone is home. Timer switches are great tools for showing activity within the home by switching lights on and off.

### 3. Lock all of your windows and doors

It's surprisingly easy to forget, especially around Christmas time when there's so much to think about. Remember to double-check that all your doors and windows are secure before leaving home. If you're displaying Christmas lights, avoid leaving windows or doors ajar to run cables outside.

### 4. Don't overshare on Social Media

Avoid sharing too much information about where you are, when you're going, or what you've got. Don't 'check-in' and be careful when posting pictures. Criminals are increasingly using sites such as Facebook and Twitter to identify potential targets.

## 5. Make sure someone's home to take deliveries

If you're expecting a delivery, make sure someone is there to receive it. Don't give permission for packages to be left on the door step where an opportunist thief could quickly grab an early present of their own.

The Police are keen to build up a picture and have said they will increase night time car patrols. Please ring 101 after the event or 999 if the visitors are on your land.

Please keep a look out for each other and let your neighbour know if you are away over Christmas.