

## POLICE NOTEBOOK

**T**HERE IS A LOT of confusion and misunderstanding about domestic violence – what is it, who suffers from it, who commits it and why? Violence or abuse suffered by women in their home which is carried out by their partner, ex-partner or anyone they are living with is known as domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence are usually women, but this is not always the case. Women experience domestic violence regardless of their social group, class, age, race, disability, sexuality and lifestyle.

Violence and abuse can begin at any time and take a number of forms, such as physical assault, sexual abuse, rape and threats. In addition, it may include mental and verbal abuse and humiliation. It is not easy to accept that someone you love and have trusted can behave so aggressively towards you. Because they can't explain their partner's behaviour, many women assume that they are to blame.

**You have the right to be free of fear and abuse. It is your partner whose behaviour needs to change.** Children will react in different ways to being brought up in a home with a violent person. They may be affected by the tension or by witnessing arguments and assaults. They may feel that they are to blame, feel insecure, alone, frightened or confused – like you. Talk to them – be honest with them about the situation they are in.

Domestic violence is a crime which the police now deal with as a very serious matter. They will be sympathetic and offer practical help and advice. Most forces have specially trained and experienced officers who will listen and speak to you separately from your partner. You can ask to be seen by a woman officer and if you wish they can arrange medical aid, transport and a safe place to go. Our first priority is your safety and well-being. **REMEMBER – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A SERIOUS CRIME.**

### CRIME BUSTERS REVIEW

Once again cars are being broken into on isolated roads close to footpaths or bridle-paths. Opportunists are breaking windows or forcing doors to take property within the vehicles. Car radios are not necessarily the main reason to enter the car, items of clothing left in view of the offenders can entice them. Several offenders have been arrested for breaking into cars around Charlbury, but still the crime continues.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There will be a meeting in the **Tiddy Hall, Ascott, on Wednesday, 19th June, at 7.45 p.m.** for all those interested in forming or supporting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The meeting is not just for residents of Ascott. All those living within the Wychwoods and local area are cordially invited.

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