

POLICE NOTEBOOK

HELLO THERE. Musing over what to write this month, I thought "Rubbish!" Sitting at one of my vantage points, grabbing a very hurried sandwich, my eye was drawn to an untidy pile of discarded – no – dumped, rubbish from some building project. Whilst doubtless from some home improvement, it certainly did nothing to enhance the surrounding area, and quite spoilt the view from my perch! This particular pile comprised an empty "Velux" window carton, along with a load of insulation material and an old bathroom suite.

The offence of "fly-tipping" is a growing practice, now made more common, apparently, by the imposition on tradesmen of a "landfill tax". But it is not only these who offend. Anyway, if you have recently had an improvement to your loft or attic, I just know you'll be in touch....!

Now that summer is well and truly with us, a timely reminder of the fact that such weather brings with it the risk of us letting down our defences, by making our homes more vulnerable to passing criminals, attracted by how easy it has been made for them to enter without even having to break into a sweat by forcing doors or windows. **Please**, don't make their job easier for them by leaving doors and windows open.

We are fortunate in that this is a relatively low-crime area, although we do have our moments!



Thames
Valley
Police

Remember, also, that visits from unsolicited callers should be treated with suspicion. I realise that, to some, this may seem unchristian, but I urge you to thoroughly check the credentials of any person coming to your door stating they are a representative of some public service, such as Water, Gas and the like. If in doubt, request identification (they would always carry it, if they are who they say they are).

If still not content, then please call us – we would much rather be called to check somebody out for you than discover later that some malpractice has occurred – you would not be wasting our time and it would send a clear signal to any potential wrong-doer that this area is not an easy target. If more than one person calls, ensure you know the whereabouts of them all.

Your home is your castle – ensure you do all you can to discourage invaders! That's all for this month, except to say that I feel a speed check, or two, coming on – here's hoping you read this in time!! Be careful out there...

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