

Crime Stoppers

Distraction Burglars Operate in Frog Lane

During the afternoon of Thursday 29th October three men, posing as Water Board officials, entered a house in Frog Lane, Milton and attempted to carry out a distraction burglary. The residents, who are careful about keeping the front door on a chain, had unfortunately left their rear patio doors unlocked. The three men, two youngish and one about 60 years in age calmly walked in through these doors and, when challenged announced that they needed to turn off the water at the stopcock and put dye through the system to check for leaks. The older man pulled back his jacket and flashed what looked like an identity badge at the suspicious homeowner and carried on chatting. Realising that someone was upstairs, the owner again challenged the men and was told that they were checking the radiators. The three men soon left but managed to remove a handbag and some money. If you think you saw these three men, who were dressed in navy jackets and trousers, which looked like uniforms, please ring our **PCSO Kirstyn Tyrer on 0845 8 505 505 (Ext 727 8729)**. **Please keep doors locked and do not to let any strangers into your home without first checking their identity.**

Don't Make Christmas Pay for Criminals

Christmas can mean pay-day for criminals, with opportunist thieves on the lookout for expensive presents.

Always secure and lock your doors and windows, even if you are just popping out or in the garden - about one in four burglaries happen simply because the householder left windows or doors unlocked. Close all curtains when it is dark and make sure your security lights are in working order and internal lamps are on timer switches to come on when dark.

Always use your burglar alarm - if you don't have one, consider investing in one. Don't store keys near the door or hang a spare key inside the letter box, under the mat or a flowerpot. Lock garages and sheds - they are often full of expensive tools that are ideal to use for breaking into the rest of the house. Don't leave Christmas presents under the tree in full view of burglars who may be peering through windows. Don't put your empty boxes from Christmas presents out until

recycling collection day, the boxes and wrappings advertise to burglars what new gadgets and items await them inside! Security mark your property. The Safer Communities Partnership is selling Selecta DNA property marking kits for just £15 (normal retail price £49). The kit involves sweeping on a paste which contains unique microdots, only visible under a UV lamp. Your marked property is registered on a national secure database on which the police can check for the owner if your goods are stolen and recovered. To purchase a marking kit, phone the crime reduction adviser Bill Butcher on: 01993 861638.

When shopping, watch out for pickpockets, keep bags zipped up and ensure wallets and purses are not visible. Never hang handbags on pushchairs or shopping trolleys and keep your mobile phone separate from your purse or wallet. Keep your shopping out of sight in the boot and make sure your car is secure. Park in a secure 'Park Mark' car park.
www.whosmybobby.co.uk