

# Neighbourhood Watch News – December 2009/January 2010

## REMINDER – Area Meeting, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

I hope that you have marked your diary or calendar with this date for the meeting to be held at Wye Valley School – everyone is welcome. Speakers will include Dominic Grieve MP, Supt. Paul Emmings, Insp. Ray Wilks, Cllr. Mike Appleyard and others. There will be table displays on Crime Prevention and other relevant issues

## Jingls Bells.....

As Christmas approaches and shops get busier, the risk of having your purse 'dipped' from your shopping bag increases. A simple yet effective device to alert you to any attempt to steal your purse, are 'Purse Dipping Bells'. These simply clip to your purse and attract your attention if the purse is disturbed. They are available through NHWatch for the princely sum of £1.00

## Christmas security

Christmas gifts are the seasonal target of thieves, whether whilst out shopping, in your car or around the Christmas Tree at home. Don't leave purchases on display in your car – lock them away safely in the boot. If you do display gifts around the tree, make sure that they are not visible from the public highway or adjacent paths during the day, and draw the curtains at night. Check and review your security arrangements again to ensure that you don't create openings for the opportunist burglar by leaving any windows or doors unsecured. Check that your house contents insurance covers you for the value of gifts over the Christmas period. If you are going away over the holiday period, leave lights and a radio on a timer, and get a neighbour to draw your curtains and collect any mail. If you are not already a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme, make joining – or starting – a scheme a New Year resolution.

## SatNav security

Theft of SatNav's from unattended cars is a common occurrence, but just think about it. Most SatNav's include a 'Home' location, so not only has the thief got your SatNav, but he knows that you are NOT at home, and he has the means of navigating TO your home. I suggest that you edit the details of your 'Home' location so that it does NOT reveal your home address. Use a local feature such as a car park or store, so that you can still navigate back to your home location. You know where your house is – don't give the thief directions to get there!

## Current Scams

The 'Car-Jacking' scam (a note stuck on your car's rear window in a busy car park) and the 'Parcel Delivery Service (PDS)' scam (requiring you to phone a premium rate line) have both surfaced again. The best advice with the former trick is to ignore the note until you are safely out of the car park. With the PDS scam, simply ignore it.



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**Have a very Happy Christmas, and a safe and joyful New Year**



For further information about Neighbourhood Watch, contact:  
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**Police General & Non-emergency number: 0845 8 505 505**  
**Crimestoppers (Anonymous): 0800 555 111**  
**Trading Standards (Consumer Direct): 0845 4 04 05 06**