



Neighbourhood Watch



POLICE INCIDENT REPORT

Friday 5th March 2010.

Message from Chief Inspector Joe Wrigley

Uttlesford has one of the lowest recorded rates of domestic burglary with only 1.3 burglaries per 1000 households in the last quarter.

That is amazingly low, and we are well placed when measured against the most similar group of districts nationally.

Rather than be satisfied with this, we are committed to continuing to reduce the number of dwelling burglaries even further. Burglary is a horrible crime from which we are keen to have as few victims as possible.

We recently discovered that many burglaries are being committed by entry through UPVC back doors. These doors have a number of different locking mechanisms; some can be locked by simply lifting the handle - in others, lifting the handle drives across a closing bolt, but a key is needed to actually lock the door.

It has become clear from speaking to recent victims, that when they'd thought they were locking their doors, they were in fact just closing them; with the result that the door could still be opened from the outside. This mechanism is also available on conservatories and can be used with wooden doors, so this message applies to everyone.

Please make sure you know how your locks operate so that when you are locking up, you are in fact locking up. If you need any assistance with door locks or are unclear at all about this message then please speak to our crime reduction advisor, Peter Caulfield on 0300 333 4444 who will be happy to advise you.

Peter Caulfield added, "About 30% of all house burglaries are via unlocked or open doors and windows. All most burglars have to do is try a few handles until they find one which opens a door. Please take note and don't become a statistic."

If you see any suspicious or unusual activity around your neighbourhood or have any information which you think might be of help, please call Essex Police on 0300 333 4444.

Many thanks,

Lindsay Baillie

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