

CSI:



South Bucks
District Council



THAMES VALLEY
POLICE

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION Issue 5 2011

Mobile CCTV proves successful in South Bucks

Mobile CCTV has been used in South Bucks to combat antisocial behaviour for approximately one year. Many of our residents are not aware that this technology is in use, or of the success the local police teams have had in its deployment to trouble spots in the area.

The CCTV system comprises of video cameras which provide a live feed to a laptop which can be viewed by officers in a nearby location. The cameras can be moved to different locations throughout the local area according to need. This live feed can also be viewed on handheld monitors.

Halloween 2010 saw the first practical "real time" use of the equipment. Operation Ghostbuster was the Thames Valley Police and South Bucks District Council joint response to prevent antisocial behaviour in the Burnham and Iver areas between the 26th October and the 8th November 2010. Halloween can be used as an excuse for ASB and criminal behaviour if plans are not in place.

Previous years had seen incidents of egging of houses and incidents of criminal damage, including the turning of cars.

Using the CCTV to monitor groups intent on causing mayhem and disturbing the peace, police officers were able to attend locations to disperse would be trouble makers and engage with those legitimately enjoying the evening.

The use of the CCTV system combined with the partnership approach to tackling antisocial behaviour in South Bucks resulted in substantial reduction in reported crime.



Join Thames Valley Police Community Messaging

If you would like to know about the crime and community safety activity in your neighbourhood sign up for community messaging on the Thames Valley Police website
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Win a SelectaDNA kit:

To win this hi-tech property marking kit, be in the first 5 people to fill out a home security self-assessment on South Bucks District Council's website
www.southbucks.gov.uk

Burnham 'Nightsafe' event

A night safe event took place on Burnham High Street on Friday (19th August) from 9pm till 1am to raise awareness about keeping safe on a night out.

Officers from South Bucks District Council's Community Safety Team, Thames Valley Police, Bucks Drug and Alcohol Action Team, a medic and representatives from the Substance Misuse Arrest Referral Team (SMART) attended the event.

Licensing checks were carried out by Thames Valley Police on all the high street pubs and over 100 night safe packs were given out to revellers throughout the evening.

Thames Valley Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for South Bucks, PC Iain Torbet says, "Several members of the public and the licensees welcomed our attendance on the High Street. Two members of the Special Constabulary helped with our patrols and offered support to the Licensing Officer whilst undertaking the checks. We hope to carry out another night safe event in the run up to Christmas."



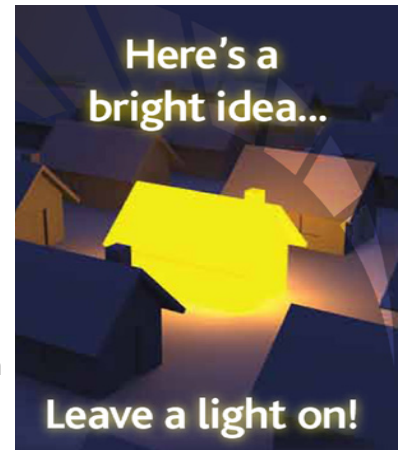
Here's a Bright Idea...Leave a Light on!

Residents are being asked to consider using their timer light switch to leave a light on if they plan to return home after dark. Other advice is to regularly vary the times they set timer switches to turn on and off.

From October staff from Thames Valley Police and the District Council Community Safety Team will be at locations across South Bucks handing out information about how to secure homes effectively against burglaries.

Gemma Herbert, Crime Reduction Officer, says: "A home in darkness between 4pm and 9pm tells potential burglars that nobody's home. By using timer light switches residents can protect their property by creating the impression that someone's home."

Remember the clocks go back and the nights draw in on October 31st.



What do you do with your spare time?

Have you got a few hours to spare each month to help Thames Valley Crimestoppers promote the charity's anonymous crime information giving services?

- Were you aware that Crimestoppers is a charity?
- Did you realise it is completely independent of the police?
- Were you aware that locally it is run almost entirely by volunteers?
- Did you know that every project undertaken has to be funded locally?

Since starting up in Thames Valley in 1988 nearly 21,000 pieces of vital information on criminals have been passed onto the charity completely anonymously, leading to 2117 criminals being arrested and charged. That's an impressive success ratio of 1:10.

Julia Hughes, Projects Coordinator for Thames Valley Crimestoppers, acknowledges: 'Volunteering for Crimestoppers can be both an exciting and varied role as well as very rewarding. Last year over 2700 people called us to provide significant information on local crime that led to 164 people being arrested and charged.'

Thames Valley Crimestoppers is looking for committed volunteers who can help support them in areas such as:

- Fundraising
- Youth projects
- Campaigning
- Marketing
- PR
- Minute taking



To read more about volunteering with the charity go to: www.crimestoppers-uk.org/support-us/volunteering/become-a-volunteer. If you believe you have the relevant skills and experience to help make a difference locally then consider becoming a Thames Valley Crimestoppers Volunteer. Simply email Julia Hughes Julia.Hughes@crimestoppers-uk.org and come for an informal interview.

Don't let Halloween haunt you

Halloween can be harmless fun, but sometimes members of the community can become distressed by unexpected callers. The behaviour of some trick or treaters can be intimidating and even criminal - in the past there have been incidents of vandalism, damage to property and graffiti.

Operation Ghostbuster is the local Police Operation aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour over the historically busy Halloween and Bonfire Night period. The local Neighbourhood Police Teams will be working late shifts throughout the period in an attempt to prevent issues happening rather than dealing with them after the event.

The operation is supported by the Community Safety Partnership, specifically Carole Bennett, who will visit vulnerable residents who may have been a victim over previous years or who have recently been a victim of anti-social behaviour, to offer them reassurance and advice about what to do should any issues occur. Those likely to cause issues will be visited by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and PC Torbet before the busy period to remind them of their responsibilities to behave properly and of the consequences should they decide not to.

This is the second year the operation has run following its success in 2010. Tackling anti-social behaviour works – but only if you report it. So next time you witness someone behaving anti-socially, show them you don't tolerate it by reporting it to the council or the police.



Drugs – The Facts: Ketamine

Ketamine is a short-acting but powerful general anaesthetic which depresses the nervous system and causes a temporary loss of body sensation. That's why it has been used for operating on humans and animals. It has powerful hallucinogenic qualities (with a distortion of objects and reality).

What does it look like?

Although it is manufactured as an injectable liquid, in illicit use ketamine is generally evaporated to form a powder or compressed into pills.

How is it used?

Snorted, injected or swallowed. Ketamine is odorless and tasteless, so it can be added to beverages without being detected, and it induces amnesia. Because of these properties, the drug is sometimes given to unsuspecting victims and used in the commission of sexual assaults referred to as “drug rape”.

The law

Ketamine is a Class C drug which means that it's illegal to possess it and to supply it. Possession can result in up to two years in prison and/or an unlimited fine. Supplying someone else, even your friends, can result in 14 years in jail and/or an unlimited fine.

The risks

Users may be physically incapable of moving while under the influence. Ketamine can cause panic attacks, depression, and taken in large doses, can make existing mental health problems worse. Because you don't feel any pain when you're on ketamine, you can injure yourself badly and not know you've done it. High doses, especially with other depressant drugs like alcohol, can dangerously suppress breathing and heart function and can lead to unconsciousness. Ketamine is very dangerous when mixed with ecstasy or amphetamines. It can result in high blood pressure. If high enough doses are taken, the anaesthetic effect can result in death, for example due to unconsciousness and inhalation of vomit. There have been recent reports in the medical literature of serious bladder and related problems found in ketamine users.

Slang Names for Ketamine : Special K, K-hole, Ketalar, Ketaset, Vitamin K, Green, Super K

Much of this information has been taken from the FRANK website. If you have concerns about drugs or want to know more information then help is at hand through the FRANK website at www.talktofrank.com. Further information is also available on the Buckinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Team's website at www.bucksdaat.co.uk.



Empty Your Van Before A Thief Does

Tradesmen, builders and other craftsmen who carry tools in their vans are being asked to empty their vehicles at night. But for added protection all tools should be security marked so that if they are stolen they can be identified more easily.



South Bucks District Councillor Anita Cranmer, Portfolio Holder for Community says, "Theft of tools can have a devastating effect on the owner, especially if they are self-employed." She adds, "In 2010/11, we had 152 tools stolen from vehicles; we are already very close to this figure in only the first quarter of 2011/2012."

This year, from April 1st to June 30th there have been 22 incidents of theft from a motor vehicle where at least one tool has been stolen. This accounts for nearly 15% of all thefts from a motor vehicle in South Bucks. 130 tools have been stolen in 22 thefts and, as many of them were unmarked, so far only one tool has been recovered by police and returned to the owner.

South Bucks Community Safety Partnership is urging tradesman to be vigilant and visibly marking their tools with a postcode or the words 'Stolen from' and your postcode, this will deter criminals from selling on stolen goods at car boot sales or through other means.

Deputy LPA Commander Bhupinder Rai says, "We are working hard to tackle vehicle crime, but residents need to play their part by securing their vehicles and removing any valuable items. Wherever possible take your tools with you, and do not leave them in your van."

If you would like your tools marked or engraved for free, please ask for your local Neighbourhood Policing Team on 0845 8 505 505.

Here are 5 important reasons to have a regular eye examination:

1. Driving with defective eyesight can be dangerous.
2. You can be prosecuted for driving with defective vision.
3. Driving with defective eyesight can invalidate your car insurance.
4. An eye examination can highlight eye diseases in the early treatable stages.
5. If you have your eyesight regularly tested you know you are not putting yourself or other at unnecessary risk on the roads.



Student Safety

South Bucks Community Safety Partnership would like to wish all students leaving home to go to university this summer, a fantastic and safe time during their studies. Sadly, the fact is criminals can see students as easy targets for all sorts of crimes. So protect yourself and keep safe.



South Bucks District Councillor, Anita Cranmer, Portfolio Holder for Community says, "Going to university can be very exciting, but at the same time daunting, for young people. It can also be a worrying time for parents.

She adds, "Crime levels are falling, but statistics show that one in three students will be a victim whilst studying at college or university. Students going to university this summer should take some time to read university and college guides or at least talk about safety with their parents and other students. For example, it only takes a second to close a window or send a text to a friend letting them know you are OK."

Deputy LPA Commander Bhupinder Rai says, "If something does happen to you, report it to the police and the campus authorities. You could stop it happening to someone else."