

Welcome to the winter issue of Looking Out.

The Community Safety Partnership has had a busy few months, most notably launching its own website: www.saferwestoxon.co.uk. The site aims to offer residents

a one-stop-shop for community safety information. Take a look to keep up to date on what we're doing with our partners to reduce crime.

I hope you enjoy this issue, remember you can request extra copies by calling 01993 861640.

Everyone at the Community Safety Team wishes you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Danielle Hilton

Community Safety Partnership

Looking Out ...for others in our community



Bolt out the burglar...

The West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership has teamed up with the Crimestoppers charity to raise awareness of burglary this winter.

A large banner has been installed at Marriott's Walk in Witney to remind shoppers about the importance of home security, especially over the festive period. Members of the Community Safety Team will be handing out burglary advice packs at Marriott's Walk in the run up to Christmas.

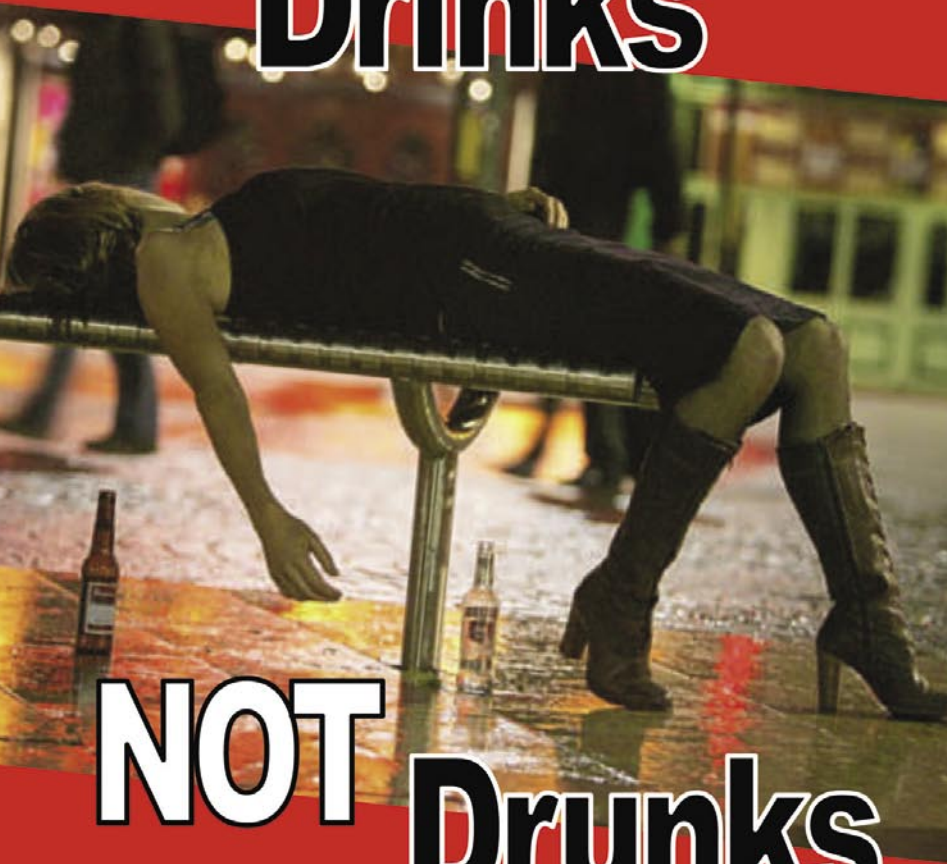
Bill Butcher, West Oxfordshire's Crime Reduction Adviser, said: "It's easy for people to forget about their home security in the middle of busy preparations for Christmas but remember thieves are out shopping too. Don't make your front window like

a shop display for them: keep presents out of view and valuable items like laptops, mobile phones and wallets in a safe, hiding place.

"By following some simple steps you can protect your property and ensure your Christmas stays burglary-free. Visit the Community Safety Partnership website for more information on the campaign: www.saferwestoxon.co.uk."

Julia Hughes, Thames Valley Crimestoppers, said: "When you've seen something suspicious it's all too easy to assume that everyone else has noticed it as well. However that bit of information could be the piece of the jigsaw that solves a case. One anonymous call to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 could make all the difference to someone's Christmas this year... possibly yours."

We Serve Drinks



NOT Drunks

West Oxfordshire
NIGHTSAFE
Reducing alcohol related violent crime

Bar staff in West Oxfordshire will be wearing badges emblazoned with “We Serve Drinks Not Drunks” over the festive period, as part of a Nightsafe initiative to tackle alcohol related disorder.

The campaign gives people a clear message that they will not be served if they are drunk and to remind bar staff of their responsibilities. Licensees have also been given posters to display on their premises.

CLLr Verena Hunt, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Chairman of the West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership said: “This initiative aims to remind bar staff of the consequences of selling alcohol to those customers who have already had enough to drink.

“We are really pleased to see so many licensees on board with this scheme across Witney, Woodstock, Carterton, Chipping Norton and Eynsham.”

Area Commander Chief Inspector Jack Malhi said: “In December 2009 and January 2010 there were 19 alcohol related crime incidents in West Oxfordshire. Compared to the same period in the previous year, this is a reduction of 52 incidents.

“The neighbourhood police teams and licensing team have been very proactive over the last year working with premises to reduce disorder. We are not complacent though so if we can reduce excessive alcohol consumption then we can reduce the level of disorder that occurs.”

Crime website launched

Residents can find out how crime is being reduced at the click of a button, thanks to a new website launched by the Community Safety Partnership.

Many agencies work together, including Thames Valley Police and the District Council, to tackle a range of issues that are highlighted on the new site:

www.saferwestoxon.co.uk

This website has replaced www.whosmybobby.co.uk and offers a one-stop-shop for community safety information relevant to residents in West Oxfordshire.

Topics include anti social behaviour, neighbourhood policing, drugs and alcohol,

domestic violence and rural crime. There is also plenty of crime reduction advice and lower level issues such as rogue traders, fly tipping, graffiti or vandalism can be reported online.

Area Commander Chief Inspector Jack Malhi said: “www.whosmybobby.co.uk proved a very successful website for informing

the public about local policing but we wanted to build on publicising how partner agencies solve problems together in our communities.”



Cllr Verena Hunt Chairman-Community Safety Partnership

"I set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme 13 years ago for the area where I live and having seen the benefits, I am keen to encourage more involvement in such schemes."

A better place to live, work and visit

"Neighbourhood Watch is a popular way for people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved. It is not just about reducing burglary figures. It brings groups of local people together to address local issues of concern and make a positive contribution to crime prevention and community safety.

"The activity of Watch members can foster a new community spirit and a belief in the community's ability to tackle problems. At the same time you feel secure, knowing that your neighbours are keeping an eye on your property.

"There are other benefits too. You will become familiar with crime prevention ideas which will help keep you, your home and belongings safe and the extra security which belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme offers, might even mean that you can get a premium discount from your insurance company.

Look out for each other

"It's entirely up to you how much you do. Some people have more free time than others and may want to take a very active role as a committee member or even co-ordinator of a local watch scheme.

"Or your part may be as simple as keeping a look out while your neighbours are on holiday, making sure there are no tell tale signs such as milk left on the doorstep that might attract a burglar.

"Everyone can do something that will really make a difference. It has become generally accepted that crime reduction and crime prevention are most successful when they involve a partnership between the public, the police

and other agencies. We all have an important role to play in creating and maintaining safer local communities."

How to get involved

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch call 01993 861640 or visit www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org



Nature's way to beat the burglar...

A campaign that helps homeowners design out crime in their garden has been launched.

Three local garden centres are signed up to the defensive gardening campaign, which was devised by the Community Safety Partnership after seeing a similar scheme work effectively in Gloucestershire.

The campaign promotes some simple steps to take to reduce the risk of theft from gardens, sheds and outbuildings.

Bill Butcher, Crime Reduction Adviser said: "Garden crime is a reality but with some careful planning you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim, while also creating an attractive outdoor space.

"This is the concept of our defensive gardening campaign and we are working with three local garden centres to raise awareness. Leaflets are available in store for customers to refer to and staff at the garden centres will be able to advise on some of the better shrubs to plant."

More information on the defensive planting scheme is available on the Community Safety Partnership's website: www.saferwestoxon.co.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON

Reg Nicolson

Anti Social Behaviour Case Worker



What does your job involve?

I assist the Anti Social Behaviour Manager in overseeing anti social behaviour throughout West Oxfordshire. We work within the Community Safety Partnership based at the district council offices.

I check various databases daily where I find out reported incidents of anti social behaviour, see what actions have been completed and whether the incidents need following up. If any incidents require further work I ensure that the correct department, agency or authority is informed, if not required to be dealt with by me.

I also issue Anti Social Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) and can apply for Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

How can your previous experience help you in your new role?

Having previously served as a police officer for 25 years in West Oxfordshire, I have gained a vast amount of local knowledge and contacts in the area.

I will be able to use that knowledge gained to expedite any enquiries speedily and efficiently and provide at least the minimum standards we set to deal with anti social behaviour.

Many people aren't sure what is defined as anti social behaviour, can you clarify what kind of issues should be reported?

Anti Social Behaviour has recently been defined as "Behaviour by an individual or group that results or is likely to result in:

- Another party feeling personally threatened
- Creates a public nuisance, or
- Has a detrimental impact upon the environment, or
- Has a detrimental effect upon the quality of life of an individual or the community as a whole.

This would cover issues such as graffiti/vandalism, fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, excessive noise and threatening and intimidating behaviour.

What is the best way to report unacceptable behaviour and what response can victims expect to receive?

Victims and sufferers can report ant-social behaviour via the West Oxfordshire District Council Online Reporting System if they do not require an immediate response. They will be contacted within three working days to determine the level of support required.

Complaints can also be made by calling 01993 861000 or email community.services@westoxon.gov.uk

Alternatively, write to:
West Oxfordshire Community Safety Team,
Elmfield Council Offices,
New Yatt Road,
Witney,
Oxon OX28 1PB

Reports of anti-social behaviour (taken by another agency), requiring an immediate response will be forwarded to the police without delay if it is inappropriate for that agency to deal with the incident.



 **0845 8 505 505**

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

In an emergency dial 999. It is an emergency if a crime is being committed, is about to be committed or if there is a risk of serious injury.

Neighbourhood Watch Office	01993 861640
Crime Reduction Adviser	01993 861638
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Oxfordshire Trading Standards	0845 051 0845
West Oxfordshire District Council	01993 861000
Join doorstep password schemes to keep bogus callers out:	
Thames Water	08459 200 800
Southern Electric	0800 622 838
British Gas	0845 955 5404
NPower	0845 602 6363

