



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



In plying the streets of Alresford recently, delivering leaflets to many of its households, I was struck by what a trusting community we live in. Many doors and windows are left open or unlocked; gardens and patios are littered with items such as bikes, barbeques, and other attractive possessions, and these are often unsecured and in many cases open to view. And yet, there is relatively very little reported theft or interference to disturb the tranquillity.

Such an observation does suggest, however, that greater awareness of the potential for opportunist crime and the simple measures by which it might be prevented or deterred, might help to reduce yet further the crime figures (and the disruption, distress and cost associated with it) in our delightful town and its environs. It is notable that the one area where the statistics point to an increase is in non-dwelling burglaries (see June Forum).

Removing items from sight; locking sheds, doors and windows; and fitting locks to bikes, and other attractive and easily portable items can all help. Securing sheds (and the items within) with a simple padlock will not prevent a determined criminal, but most such petty crimes are not premeditated and where there is nothing to attract attention, the opportunity is reduced. So if your possessions might be better protected through simple security measures, don't wait; act now. For more information and advice, visit <http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/advice-and-information/crime-prevention>.

And speaking of awareness, citizens may not know that the recent election for Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, held in May, returned Michael Lane with 37% of the vote, (if 2nd preferences are counted). Turnout was a meagre 29.14%. Michael, (the Conservative candidate and a former naval officer) will now work closely with newly appointed Chief Constable, Olivia Pinkney. He replaces the independent Simon Hayes.

The role of the PCC is to ensure that policing meets the needs of the local community and Mr Lane's first listed priority is protecting and improving neighbourhood and front line policing. If you wish to influence policing, you may do so through Mr Lane, your elected representative, who can be contacted through the following link opcc@hampshire.pnn.police.uk