

Latest

Distraction Burglaries

The police have reported a widespread increase in bogus callers, with attendant deception burglaries. We have copies of a Home Office booklet *'How to beat the bogus caller'* that gives good advice to residents. However, we do not have enough to distribute to the whole parish. If you would like a copy or you know someone who could benefit from having one, pop into 9 Chalklands or contact any Sandon Parish Council or HGCA committee member to obtain a copy. The booklet is also available on the net at:

<http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/stopchaincheck.pdf>.

Credit Card Security

You are advised to shield your Pin with your hand when carrying out a transaction. This will help to prevent criminals from noting your number via a tiny camera over your head. Such a camera can be inserted into the shop ceiling with the aid of corrupt employees or coerced individuals. They then use a card cloned from details stolen from your card's magnetic strip to take advantage of the Pin.

As the chip and Pin system can sometimes make these cards difficult to use in the UK, fraudsters often send them to countries where the system has not been introduced, such as the US.

Do not let your card out of you sight when making a transaction. Also check to see if there is anything unusual about the chip and Pin terminal. A second keypad can be fitted over the genuine one:



Age Concern HandyVan

Age Concern run a free HandyVan service, fitting security equipment such as door chains and viewers and window locks. They also install safety features such as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. They can be contacted on 01255 473 999 or by email on handyvan@helptheaged.org.uk. See the Help the Aged web site at <http://www.helptheaged.org.uk>. Your Neighbourhood Watch coordinator can supply application forms.

Cycle Tags

Protect your bicycle with a data tag. They can be obtained from Moulsham Lodge Police Station at a cost of £5. You can either call in to the station Mon-Thurs 09:00-13:00 and purchase one at the front counter or send a cheque made payable to CNW and they will pop one in the post.

Resident's Speed Watch

One of the matters raised at a NAP meeting concerned speeding on the East Hanningfield and Southend roads. As the police do not have the resources to set regular speed traps, they suggested a resident's speed watch.

Two or more residents monitor traffic speed with a speed gun and note the registration numbers of offending cars (could photograph them).

The police write to the car owners, indicating that they exceeded the speed limit in the village on the day in question. It is intended as a means of educating drivers but persistent offenders could be subject to more vigorous enforcement. I can understand that drivers might be inclined to slow down somewhat if they thought that their speed might be monitored.

If it is found that speeding occurs frequently at a particular location and day/time, the police say they will take appropriate direct enforcement action.

The police have expressed a willingness to supply the equipment for the speed watch, train volunteers and help in running it initially.

A training course is currently being organised. If you would like to join in, please get in touch with your Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.