

STAY SAFE DURING DARKER NIGHTS

AUTUMN IS WELL UNDERWAY and with the clocks about to go back, Broxtowe residents are being urged to follow some simple safety tips to ensure they don't become the victims of crime this winter.

During the darker nights many of us will be socialising and shopping as we prepare for festivities such as Halloween, Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. A few simple measures can help reduce crime including:

Going out

- When going out, make it look as though there is someone in your home by using timer switches to ensure lights turn on or leave a radio playing.
- Where possible invest in a security light and set a burglar alarm.
- Register items at www.immobilise.com, a free property register that increases the chance of any stolen property being returned.
- Ensure doors and gates are locked to prevent easy access.

Whilst shopping

- Make sure your handbag, purse or wallet is secure and out of sight and never unattended.
- When typing your pin number ensure it cannot be seen.
- Always close car windows, use steering lock and lock doors.
- If you have to keep items in your car keep them out of sight in the boot.
- Park in a well-lit area, an attended car park or a safer car park displaying Park Mark signage. For more information about Park Mark visit www.parkmark.co.uk

Using cash points

- Be aware of your surroundings, use another cash point if you see anything suspicious.

- Check that the machine appears normal before using it.
- When typing your pin number ensure it cannot be seen.
- Only withdraw money you need, avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Put your money and cards away safely before leaving the machine.

Whilst you're out and about

- Wear light or reflective clothing and when cycling use cycle lights!
- When out walking stick to well lit areas.
- Don't leave bags on chair backs and keep purses and wallets close by. Drink responsibly, stay in groups, never accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended.
- Have an enjoyable Festive Season – but remember – don't drink and drive.
- Ensure someone knows where you are and when you will be home.
- Plan how you will get home. Keep fares separate from your purse so you can still get home if you lose it.
- Always check taxi drivers identification, never get into an unlicensed taxi.
- When arriving home by taxi or car get your house keys ready.
- Never walk home alone, don't take shortcuts through alleys or open spaces.
- If you are being followed, cross the street and get to a busy place.
- Remember, your safety and well being is far more important than material belongings. Don't compromise your safety for a mobile phone or another valuable item.

Bonfire Night

- Try to attend an organised bonfire night display as this is much safer.
- If you are buying fireworks, buy them from a legitimate retailer.
- Bonfires – should be at least 18 metres (60ft) from houses, trees, hedges, fences or sheds.
- On bonfire night make sure your wheelie bin is out of sight.

Christmas/Diwali

- Make sure doors and windows are locked when leaving your house – don't leave presents or purchases on view in your home or vehicle.

- If you intend to go away for the festive period, make your home appear occupied – use time switches on lights or ask a trustworthy neighbour to close/open your curtains.

The South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership continues to work hard to reduce crime across South Nottinghamshire. Measures used to reduce crime include amongst others, high-visibility policing, covert operations, CCTV surveillance and security patrols.

To find out about crime in Broxtowe visit the Nottinghamshire Police website at www.nottinghamshire.police.uk

In an emergency or to report a crime in progress contact the police on **999**

For non-emergencies and enquiries call Nottinghamshire Police on **101**

To report crime anonymously contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

For more information, please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 3744, email spc@broxtowe.gov.uk or visit www.broxtowe.gov.uk

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