

Safe and Sound

January 2017

Sue Hanley, Chair of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

Welcome back to the first column of 2017. In December's column, I talked about the sort of things that residents can do to help keep their property safe and secure, in particular the new gadgets and valuables received as Christmas gifts.

As we have seen previously in January, there is usually a slight increase in burglaries with opportunist thieves targeting the unwary, aware of the rich pickings to be had post-Christmas. Once again I would urge you to get valuables property marked and registered for free on Immobilise, the national property register. www.immobilise.com. Property marking is a great way to help protect your valuables and make them traceable. This makes it more difficult for thieves to sell them on and assists the police in returning your valuables to you if they are recovered. Please mark your items in an inconspicuous place with your postcode and house number using an ultra-violet (UV) pen which is visible under UV light.

So far we've had some very mild winter weather, but it's not over yet! You've heard of Jack Frost, but have you heard of 'Frost-jacking'? As the temperature drops the number of 'frost-jackings' increase. 'Frost-jacking' occurs when a thief steals an unattended car that has been left to defrost on the owner's driveway or their street, complete with the keys in the ignition and the engine running. If your car is stolen when keys are left in it, it is likely that your insurance will not cover you.

Top tips to help prevent frost-jacking:

- Never leave the keys in the ignition, even if you are away from the car for a short time. Always lock your vehicle
- Never leave your car running unattended when de-icing. Don't leave your valuables on show in the car - take them with you
- If you have a garage, use it to park your car. No need to defrost and it's out of sight

If you have any information about car thefts, please contact the police on **101** or Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**. For more information about North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership and how to keep your property safe, visit www.nwcsp.org. Follow us on Twitter! @saferredditch