

Friday 25th November

News and appeals

Advice on how to beat the Christmas crooks

Police have issued a warning to Christmas shoppers and revellers to keep a close watch on their personal property when out and about shopping and celebrating as the festive season approaches.

Here are some tips and handy reminders:

When you put your purse or phone back into your handbag make sure you secure your bag again. Many people leave their bag open, making it easy for a purse and other items to be taken while you're distracted. If the handbag has a flap that goes over the top of the bag hold it so that the flap's fastening is towards your body.

If you do not use a handbag, make sure phones, wallets, purses and similar items go into an inside jacket pocket (ones with zips are especially good) or into a front pocket of your trousers; not the back pocket, especially when the top of the trousers or jeans are visible.

You could fit your purse with little purse bells, which are designed to be attached to your purse or handbag. They're very useful where there's a heightened risk of handbag theft, in places such as busy shops and cafés, street markets, other crowded places and on public transport.

If you can mark your phones, laptops or tablets and register them on www.immobilise.com it helps with identification.

If you take some simple steps you can reduce your chance of being targeted. Keep valuables out of sight in a secure place

and on your person at all times and you significantly reduce the risk of losing them.

Say NO to cold callers offering phone call blocking services

Police are warning Sussex residents to be cautious of cold callers offering relief from nuisance phone calls.

The force has received reports of fraudulent sales calls encouraging householders to subscribe to costly call blocking or telephone preference services, charging a monthly fee.

However, the services offered will not block any unwanted calls, and could place personal information in the hands of criminals.

During September and October, ten reports to Action Fraud and Sussex Police involved fraudsters asking local residents for payments and monthly subscriptions for call blockers, ranging between £20 – £200. In seven cases out of the ten some money was paid over.

For genuine call blocking and telephone preference services, residents are advised to sign up to the free Telephone Preference Service (www.tpsonline.org.uk) which offers one level of protection. Call blocking devices approved by 'Secured by Design', such as trueCall devices (www.truecall.co.uk), are also available.

Detective Chief Inspector Tracy Edwards, lead for Operation Signature which protects vulnerable and elderly people against fraud, said: "We encourage all our residents to be extremely wary of cold callers, but these fraudsters are extremely cunning in offering pretending to offer relief from unwanted callers – at a price.

"If you receive a phone call from anyone offering to block unwanted calls, do not give or confirm to the caller any information at all - refuse even to give your name, address, and your bank - and put the phone down.

"Then contact Action Fraud - or us at Sussex Police if you are elderly - with the details of the call.

"If you have given any personal information, please contact Sussex Police and also your bank as promptly as possible."

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud or an attempt at fraud, call Sussex Police on 101 or visit www.sussex.police.uk.

If you need to a report fraud or attempted fraud, you can do so by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Further information is available on the Operation Signature webpage here: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/advice/protect-yourself-and-others/fraud/operation-signature/>

Witness appeal following burglary in Upper Beeding

Police are appealing for witnesses following a burglary in Upper Beeding on Thursday (17 November).

It is believed offenders broke into the property in Henfield Road through a window around the back sometime between 7.30am and 3.45pm .

An untidy search of the property had been made and a significant amount of jewellery and silverware was stolen.

Detective Constable Dave Wadley said: "The burglary happened during daylight hours and so I believe there's a good chance someone will have seen something that could help with our investigation.

"If you were in the area on Thursday, 17 November and saw anything suspicious, no matter how insignificant you may think it is, then please get in touch."

Witnesses are asked to report online quoting serial 846 of 17/11.

Crime summary

Burglary

Reference: 0640 22-11

Location: Thistle Down Ashington

Date and time: Between 12.10-12.40

Details: Window smashed and high value jewellery stolen

Reference: 0344 21-11

Location: Beech Road, Horsham

Date and time: Between 2100-0600

Details: Front door jemmed open.

Reference: 1479 21-11

Location: Crescent Road, Thakeham

Date and time: 17/11 - 21/11

Details: Window smashed in the utility area, untidy search, jewellery stolen.

Reference: 0632 18-11

Location: Ropeland Way, Horsham

Date and time: 18/11/16. Between 1000-1250

Details: Kitchen window forced, untidy search.

Reference: 0442 19-11

Location: Rathbone close, Pulborough

Date and time: 18/11/16

Details: Lock tampered with and door damaged no entry gained.

Reference: 0149 21-11

Location: Acorn Avenue, Cowfold

Date and time: 20/11/16 - 21/11/16

Details: Unknown entry, car wallet and keys stolen.

Other than Dwelling

Reference: 1258 21-11

Location: Tanbridge Park Horsham

Date and time: Between 0930-1845 20/11/16

Details: Entry gained damage caused but nothings stolen.

Help us keep Sussex safe

If you saw or heard anything, or have any information about any incident in this message please [contact us online](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call **101**, quoting the reference number provided.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Your local teams

[Visit our Website](#) to contact your local team, view local news and follow our social media accounts. Simply type your post code in the '**Find a Local Area**' box located in the top right of the web page.

