How secure is your home?

Check. Make sure you pass the burglary prevention test.

Daily security

- ☐ When you leave a room unattended, close windows and doors – especially on the ground floor.
- ☐ Keep all wallets, purses, credit cards and car keys out of sight and out of reach.
- ☐ If you leave your house empty – even when you are in the back garden – lock all the doors and windows and make sure fanlight windows are closed. Be especially careful about those on the ground floor and above flat roof areas.
- ☐ An intruder alarm can be an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system, seek advice to ensure it is the most suitable for your needs.
- ☐ Make it a habit to mark your valuables by using your postcode and house number or name. Some articles are unsuitable for marking so photograph them next to a ruler.

After dark

- ☐ When you go out in the evening, always leave a light on – in a room that can't be peered into from the road.
- ☐ If you want to leave the windows open while you sleep, have window restrictors fitted to stop people climbing in.
- ☐ Fit security lighting – either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or infrared activated lighting which draws attention to movement.

When on holiday or away from home

- ☐ Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road or upstairs. Regularly change the timing on the switch.
- ☐ Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station, giving the impression that the house is occupied. Again, regularly change the timing on the switch.

Front door security

- ☐ Don't let anyone into your home that you don't know. Always ask for identification – official visitors won't mind being asked for ID.
- ☐ Fit a door chain or bar and, if you have a solid front door, a wide angle door viewer.

In the garden

- ☐ Double check fences and boundaries to make sure they keep burglars out. Ensure that gates or access to the rear of the house are locked and secure.
- ☐ Trim overgrown plants – don't give burglars a hiding place.
- ☐ Consider laying gravel on your footpaths or driveway, which can deter burglars from approaching your property.
- ☐ Secure garden tools and ladders in a locked shed or garage to prevent them being used to break in to your or a neighbour's home.
- ☐ Outside security lighting as well as a visible burglar alarm helps deter burglars.

SUSSEX POLICE

For advice on crime reduction and Neighbourhood Watch please visit: **www.sussex.police.uk** or contact your local police station on **101**

The best defence against burglary is prevention.