



SAFER GUILDFORD
a partnership approach

24th October 2007

Stoughton Community Safety Update



**ANDY COUMBE
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STOUGHTON**

**I am part of the
Neighbourhood Team in
Stoughton.**

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***:"Please contact me if there is
any issue that you think the
Team could help you with."***

Welcome to this month's update

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1. No Cycling

Recently there have been some adjustments made to some footpaths within Stoughton, to include cycle lanes. This gives me a good opportunity to remind those of us that cycle in Stoughton, that the Wooden Bridge footbridge has 'No Cycling' signs. This is to ensure the safety of those using the bridge, and is enforceable by a Fixed Penalty fine of £20.

2. Secure Your Home

Simple steps to secure your home this winter.

Darker evenings are on their way when the clocks go back this Sunday (October 28) – and with it a time traditionally when burglars appear to thrive.

But don't despair - help is at hand from Guildford Police, as officers will be distributing free low energy light bulbs and timer switches to help you protect your home this winter.

Guildford Crime Reduction Advisor, PC Graeme Ingate, explained: "At this time of year we usually see an increase in burglaries but there are simple step homeowners can take to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of this crime. Good lighting is an excellent way to deter a thief, particularly timed lights, both internal and external, which give the impression someone is at home. Our free giveaway should ensure that residents are able to take this basic security measure."

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Exterior lights, fitted with sensors which switch on for a short time when they detect something in range, are also a good deterrent, as are "dusk to dawn" lights at the front of premises, which are light sensitive and come on when it gets dark and switch themselves off when it gets light.

Lighting is just one of the ways you can protect your home and should form a major part of your winter security review.

PC Ingate added: "Of course lighting on its own will not deter a criminal if other security weaknesses are evident but it is a good and simple start. The chance of being a victim of burglary in Surrey is very low but if you make sure you follow the simple measures below, the likelihood will be even smaller."

Other measures residents can take to prevent the opportunistic burglar choosing their house this winter include:

Alarms – visible burglar alarms will stop most burglars breaking in.

Windows and doors - always secure the ground floor windows and other windows that can be reached by climbing. Locks are inexpensive and widely available not just for windows, but also for main and patio doors. If your front and back doors are not secure, then neither is your home. Make sure they are of solid construction, and remember glass panels can prove vulnerable. Car keys should be placed away from windows and front doors where they may be vulnerable to theft by "fishing" via the letterbox with a stick or similar implement.

Boundaries – A high wall or fence at the back of your property can put off a burglar, but check for weak spots. Make sure the front of the house is visible to neighbours or passing pedestrians so a thief cannot work unseen. A thorny hedge along a boundary also provides an effective deterrent.

Outbuildings – Never leave a garage, shed or outbuilding unlocked, especially if the garage has a connecting door to the house. Consider installing a shed alarm. Lock tools and ladders away so that thieves cannot use them to break in. you may not want your lawnmower for a few months but a burglar will.

Neighbourhood Watch – Many areas of Surrey are covered by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Good neighbours are your best defence against crime. To see if you are in a Neighbourhood Watch area, or if you are interested in starting one, contact Waverley Crime Reduction Advisor, John Robini or Guildford Crime Reduction Advisor, PC Graeme Ingate.

3. Youth Club

The Stoughton Massive youth club continues to grow! If you have a child aged between 10 and 14 years old, who might benefit from joining, why not contact us using the number below? We are also looking for volunteers who might like to give up one evening (2 hours) twice a month to help with the activities. To give you an idea of the things we do, take a look at some of our forthcoming activities:

31st Oct Fright Night at Thorpe Park

14th Nov TBC

28th Nov Celebration of our first anniversary

12th Dec Pottery painting and Christmas party

4. Scam Letters

A concerned resident who received a letter that seemed to be too good to be true has recently contacted me. Euro Millions Lottery International claimed the resident had won a substantial sum of money on their lottery, and was requesting information from them, including their bank details. Obviously this letter is nothing more than a scam to get your bank details, and should be thrown in the bin (recycling, of course).

5. Potholes

No updates on potholes this month (thankfully), so I am monitoring those already reported, and re-reporting them if they deteriorate.

6. Guess the Object

7.30pm on Friday 7th December is a date for your diaries. It's the 'Guess the Object' event at Emmanuel Church. Teams of up to 6 people will compete to identify mystery objects, with prizes and a raffle. Cheese and biscuits, as well as tea and coffee will be provided, or you could bring your own wine and glasses if you prefer. All profits raised will go to the Stoughton Massive Youth Club and a spring outing for Stoughton seniors.

For further information, or to book tickets, please contact:

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Best wishes – Andy