

# Here's a bright idea

Dear resident,

I am the PCSO for **Bicester Rural** and I would like to inform you of what your local neighbourhood policing team and local partners are doing to keep you safe as the darker nights draw in.

Now is the ideal time to look at your home security. If you're not at home during the hours of darkness, you may be at an increased risk of burglary.

If no light is on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that nobody is at home. At this time of year it pays to secure your home. There are a number of simple and free ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your home becoming a target.

- Visit a local retailer to pick up a 24-hour segment timer for under £5. The timer can be used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home. Remember to use an energy efficient light bulb
- Register your valuables on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) it's free and takes just a few minutes and if your valuables are stolen, will allow you to tell the police, your insurer, and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catch the thief
- Keep valuables out of sight and do a full inventory including taking photos
- Lock your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door, make sure you have double locked it.

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by signing up to Thames Valley Alerts today at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

You can also follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP (or can localise this), alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or call and ask to speak to the Community Relations Officer via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101

**PCSO Abbie Newall**

