



## **CRIME REDUCTION**

### ***How secure is your shed?***

Spring is just around the corner and it will soon be time to get out into the garden. Why not also give the security of your outbuildings a check?

Many people take great care when securing their homes but pay little attention to the security of their sheds and garages that are often used to store high value property such as power tools, lawn mowers, golf clubs and bicycles, not to mention other tools that can be used to break into the main house. Sheds, in particular, are notoriously difficult to secure, but it is possible to reduce the risk of a thief getting away with your property. The type of criminal that breaks into sheds and garages is our old friend (or enemy) the opportunist. So by taking a few precautions you can make life too difficult for him to bother trying – after all there are lots of easier targets.

### ***Securing a shed***

Fit the door with two closed shackle padlocks made of hardened steel. These should be affixed to robust hasps and staples that must be bolted through the door of the shed and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. One lock should be fixed about a third of the way down from the top and the other, a third of the way up from the bottom. This will make the door a lot less easy to force.

- Use the locks at all times.
- Protect glass by fitting a grille or strong wire mesh to the inside of the window and nail up or fit locks to any windows that can be opened.
- Prevent anyone seeing into your shed by placing curtains or other coverings over the window or obscure them with paint.

### ***Garages***

Much of the advice for garden sheds also applies to garages. In addition you should consider fitting:

- High security garage door locks that can be fitted to the sides of an 'up and over' door provide excellent security and are easily obtained from DIY stores and locksmiths.
- Fitting a simple, low cost, battery operated shed alarm to the door of your shed or garage may warn of any attempted break in to your property and can act as a deterrent.

### ***Please remember to:***

- Clearly and indelibly mark your property in as many places as you can with your name and postcode.
- Take photographs of any valuable property such as statues or garden ornaments. This may help to identify items and help to secure a conviction.
- Secure items such as bicycles to the structure of a building or chain as many items together as possible, fastening the chain with a closed shackle padlock.

### ***Finally***

Never leave tools or ladders lying around the garden. Always store garden furniture or tools away in a secure place when they are not in use.

### **Crime Reduction Officer**