

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY, FORCE CRIME PREVENTION DEPT.

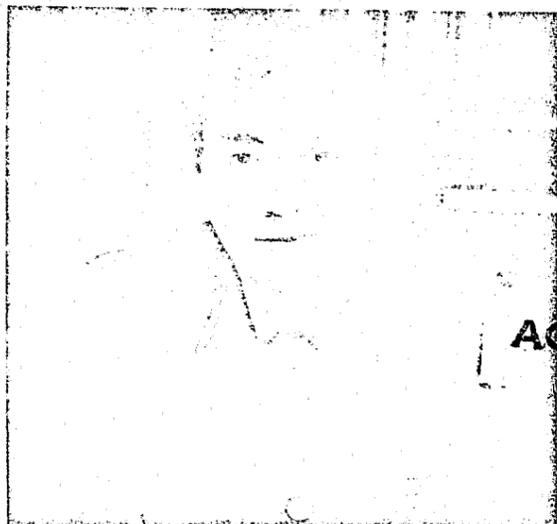
A STUDY OF THE CRIME OF HOUSEBREAKING IN HAMPSHIRE

REPORT



55725

30458
OUTSIDE



NCJRS

MAR 26 1979

ACQUISITIONS

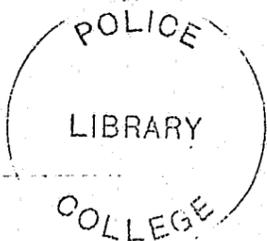
In the following pages you will find that the crime of housebreaking has been thoroughly researched by the Force Crime Prevention Department. It may, at first sight, appear to be a strange departure from Police practice to provide journalists with so much information. In the past the kind of facts revealed here have been hidden away for our internal use only. The crime situation now, however, is so serious that the assistance of every section of society has to be marshalled against the criminal.

The Police Forces of this Country, and Hampshire is no exception, have fought with inadequate resources and too few men, what is quite obviously a losing battle. We shall continue our efforts to give adequate protection to all our citizens with our limited resources and hope that the future will bring a stronger Police Force able to cope rather better with the problems.

In the meantime, however, we ask all our Hampshire residents to join us in the fight against crime. Just a little thought and effort will give the burglar, the thug and the thief a much harder time.

I am conscious of the fact that your assistance is of paramount importance to the campaign's success and I know I can count on you all to give this Crime Prevention Campaign maximum publicity.

John Duke
Chief Constable



HOW THE CAMPAIGN IS ORGANISED

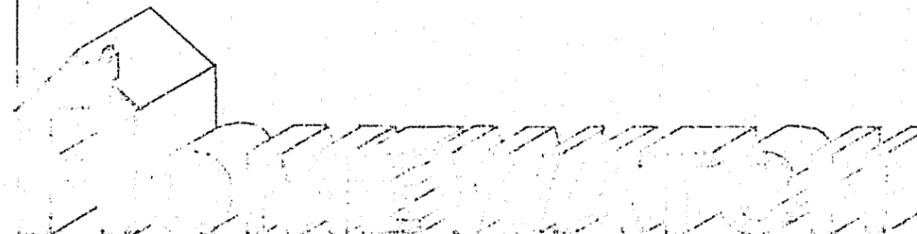
The Homewatch Campaign will run for four weeks commencing on 15th May, 1978. This book is the basis of the Campaign and it is hoped that the contents will provide sufficient material for articles and features throughout the period.

During Week 2, commencing 22nd May, a daily press release will be sent to all daily newspapers, radio and TV stations covering the County area. This daily release will also be available to other County papers on request and will give details of current housebreakings.

A widespread poster campaign will also be mounted and estate agents, building societies, libraries and public buildings will be asked to assist with display.

The South East Hampshire Crime Prevention Panel is organising the Campaign in Portsmouth, Havant, Petersfield, Fareham and Gosport. Members of the Panel have volunteered to assist with interviews and broadcasts. A poster competition has been organised and results will be available during the Campaign. Prizes in excess of £150 are to be won.

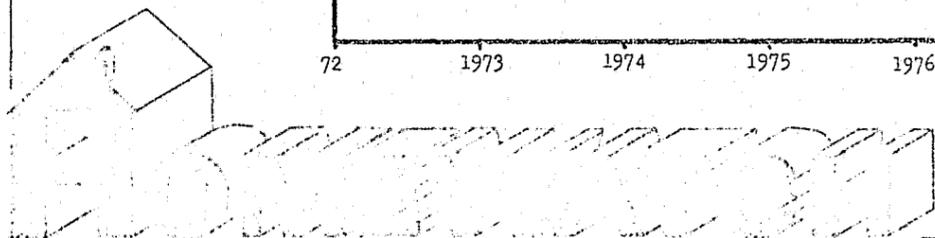
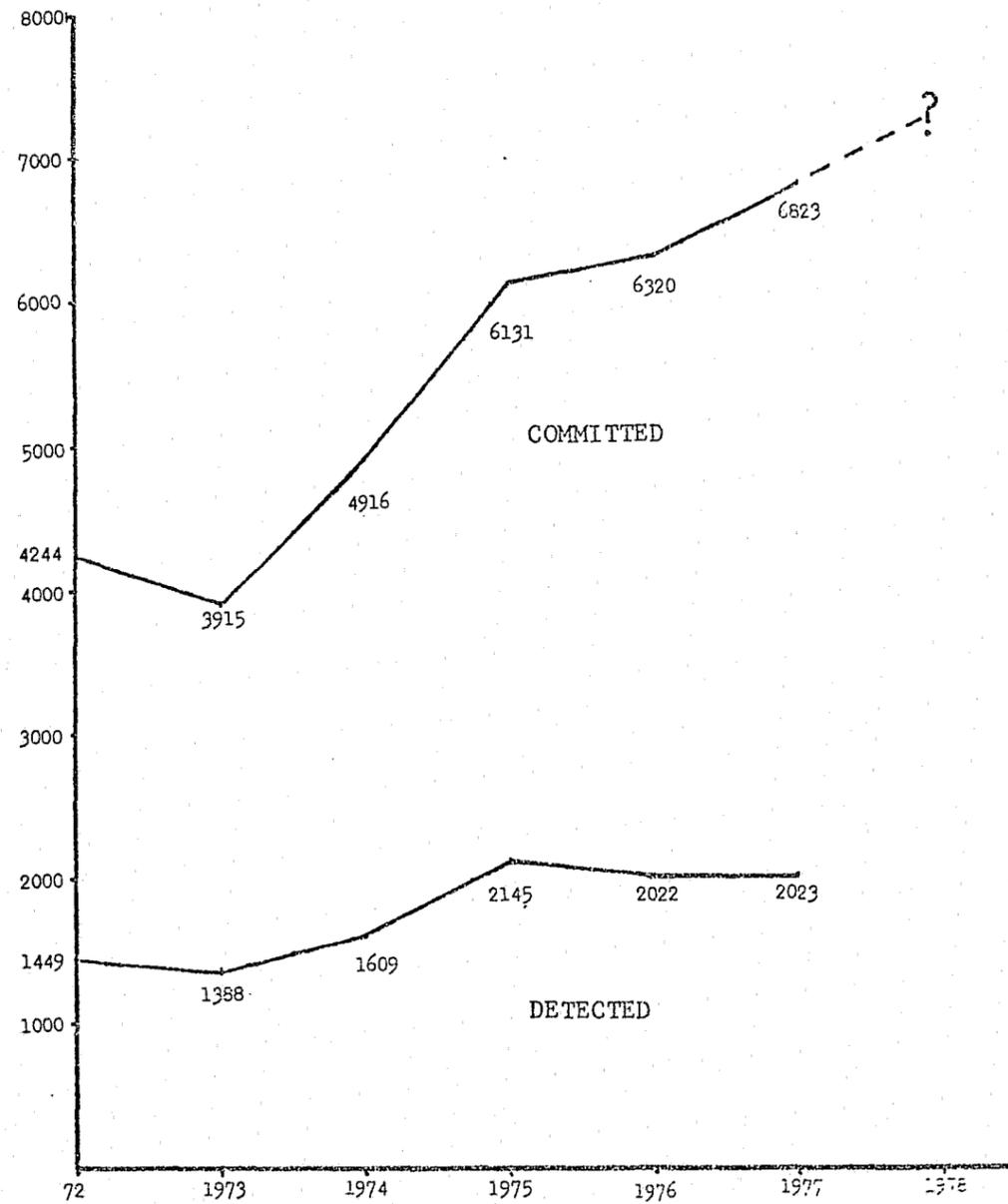
The Hampshire Police Crime Prevention Department will be delighted to assist you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to ask.



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES 1977

TOTAL CRIMES

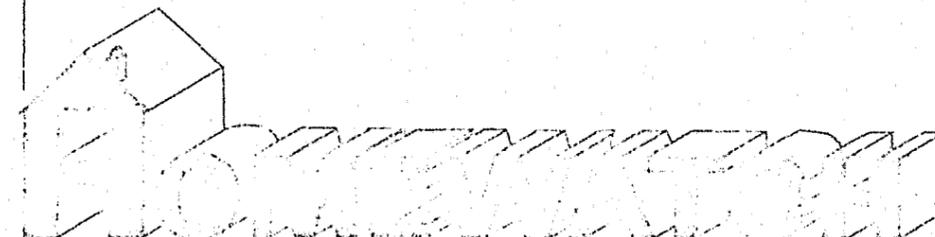
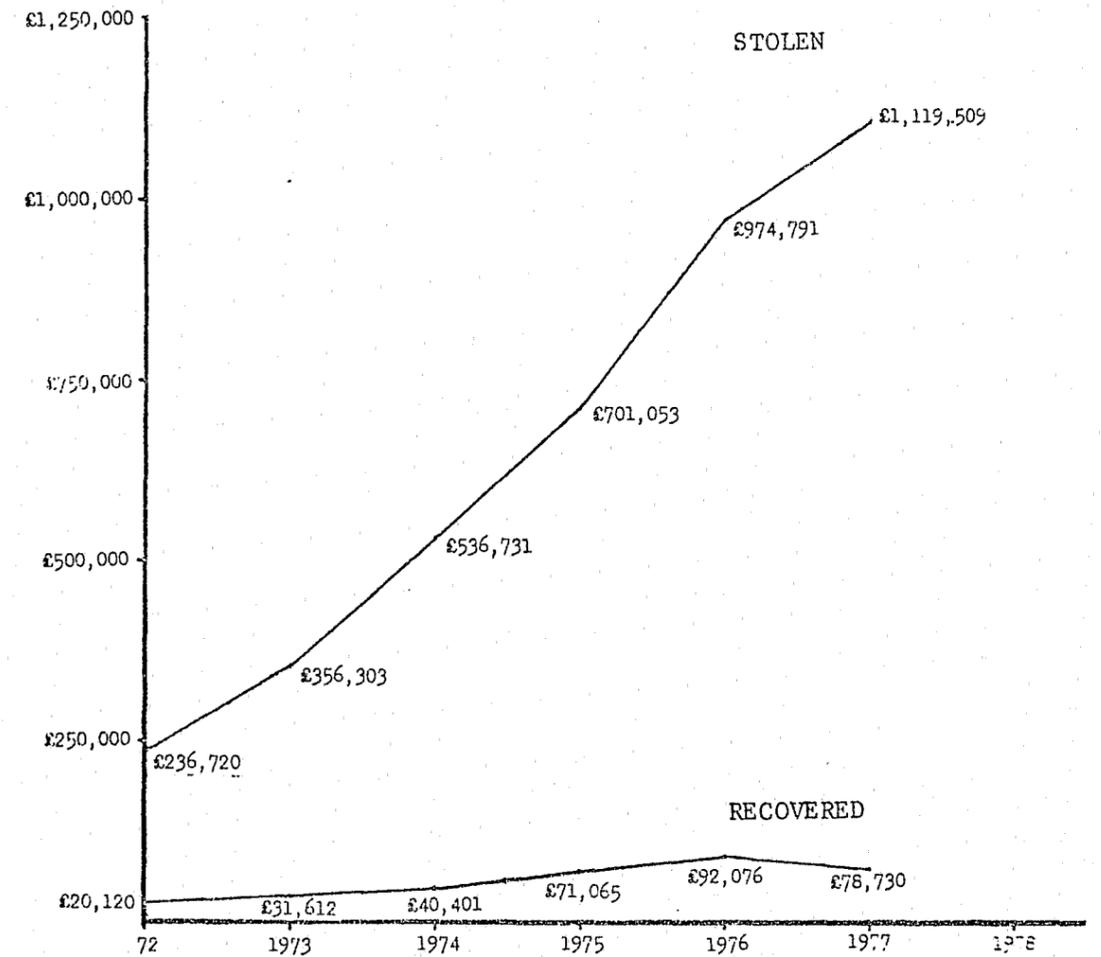
COMMITTED AND DETECTED



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

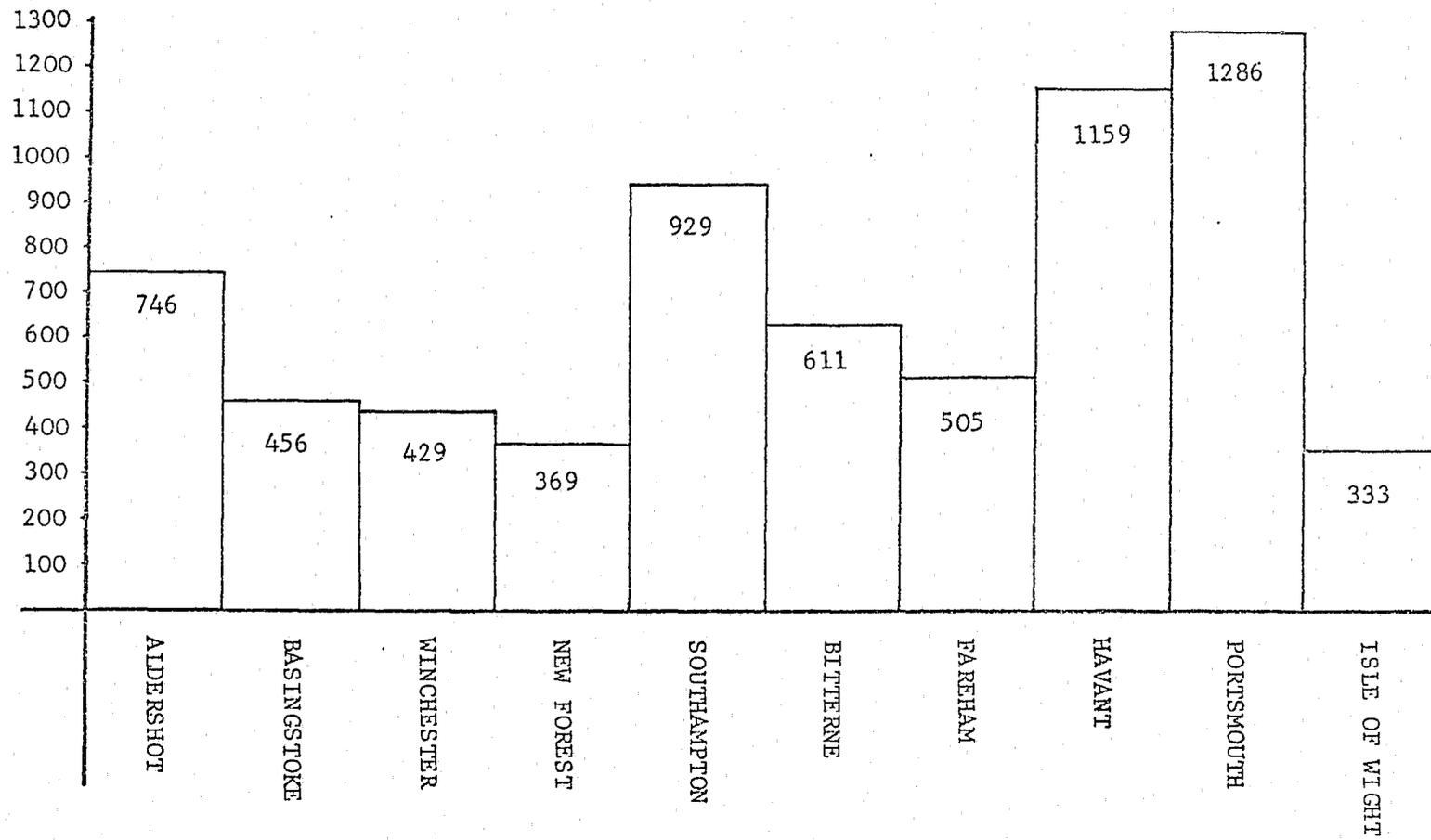
1977

TOTAL VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

WHERE THEY OCCURRED IN 1977



WHAT HOUSEBREAKING IS REALLY LIKE

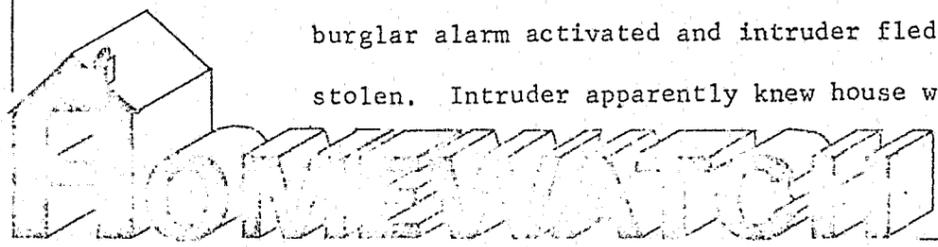
Policemen are used to the crime of housebreaking. After all there were 6,823 of them last year but for those of you who have been fortunate enough to avoid personal experience, here are the facts behind just a few that occurred over a two-day period in 1978.

1. Flat in New Forest broken into between midday and 5.30 p.m. burglar using a duplicate key on an inferior lock. Stolen cheque book, cash card, platinum and sapphire engagement ring value £100, gold wedding ring value £40, pearl earrings £40, gold chain necklace £20, silver bangle £10.
2. House at Sholing, Southampton, broken into between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. through unlocked door. Stolen diamond engagement ring value £55, eternity ring value £15, wedding ring value £15.
3. House at Landport, Portsmouth, broken into between 8.30 p.m. and 10 p.m. by breaking small hole in glass panel of front door, inserting hand and releasing catch of cylinder rim night latch. Very untidy search of whole house. Stolen T.V., cassette deck, gold chain bracelet, choker necklace, two silver charm bracelets, gold ring, cigarette lighter, table lighter

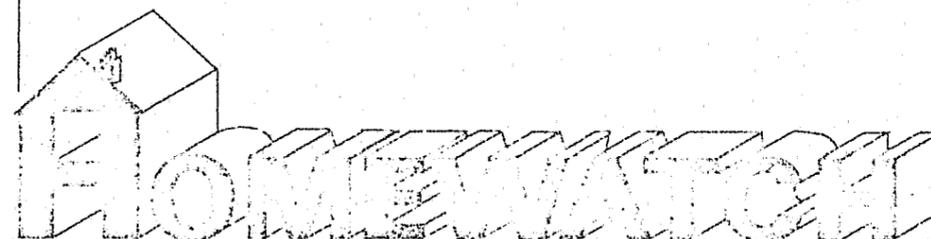
and other jewellery total value £341.

4. House at Winchester broken into between 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. following morning by breaking small hole in glass of front ground-floor window, releasing catch and climbing through. Tidy search made of all rooms. Valuable items ignored but stole £5 in cash and transistor radio value £20.
5. House at Bedhampton, Havant, broken into by forcing rear ground-floor window with a screwdriver. Stolen jewellery including rings and bracelets, value not yet known and £3 in cash.
6. House at Hedge End entered between 7.30 p.m. and 9 p.m. through closed but unlocked rear door. Untidy search of whole house, damage to crockery, utensils and furnishings, stolen; briefcase, handbag with personal papers, cheque book, writing case, keys, stamps and small quantity of jewellery total value £48.
7. House at Shirley, Southampton, broken into between 11 p.m. and 7.30 a.m. through insecure casement window. Tidy search of ground-floor whilst occupants asleep upstairs, stolen £2 in cash.

8. Between 2 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. house at Bitterne entered by breaking rear kitchen window, opening catch and climbing through, stolen cash and foreign coins, value £40.
9. House at Winchester broken into between 11 p.m. and 3.45 a.m. whilst occupants asleep upstairs by forcing catch on rear ground-floor sash window, opening window and climbing through. Stolen antique furniture, tables, chairs, clocks, ornaments value £3,000.
10. Detached cottage at Alton broken into between 11.45 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. by forcing front door with jemmy. Untidy search, burglars apparently disturbed by return of occupants. Nothing stolen.
11. House at Southsea entered during a three-day period. Occupier in hospital. Entry by using instrument to manipulate poor quality cylinder rim night latch on front door. Tidy and selective search made, stolen silver items value £2,000.
12. Attempt to enter large country house near Basingstoke. Side sash window forced with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch chisel, audible burglar alarm activated and intruder fled. Nothing stolen. Intruder apparently knew house was protected

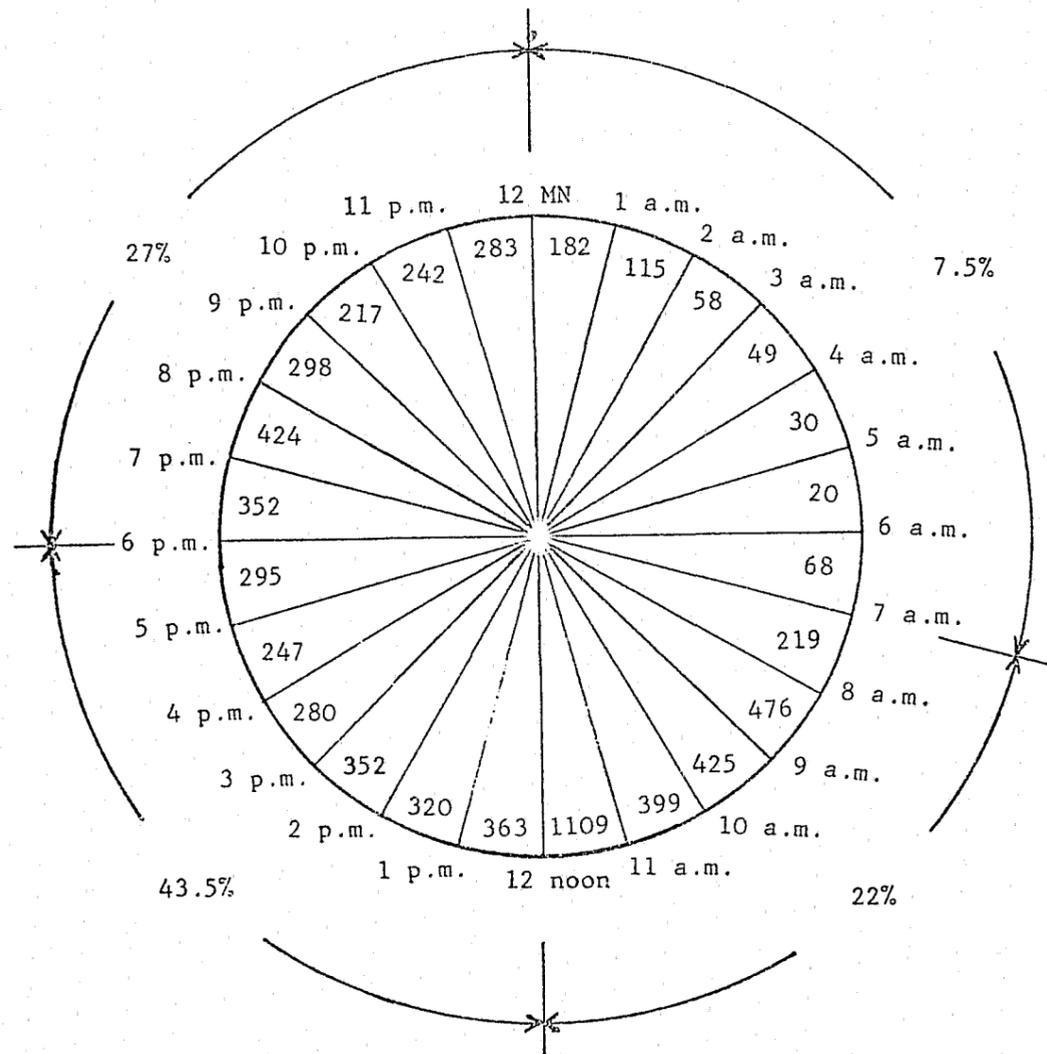


by a burglar alarm but gambled on it being switched off during daytime.

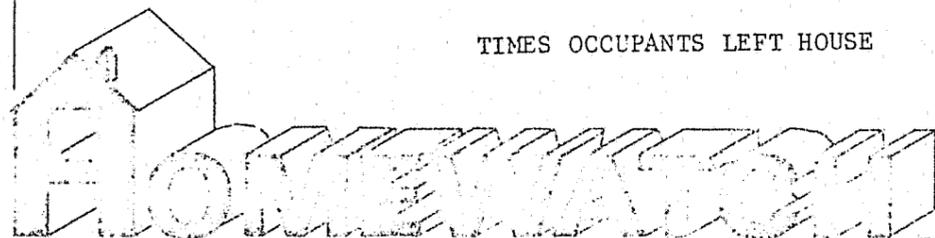


BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES 1977
DAY OF WEEK OFFENCES COMMITTED

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
728	952	916	919	1009	1286	1013



TIMES OCCUPANTS LEFT HOUSE



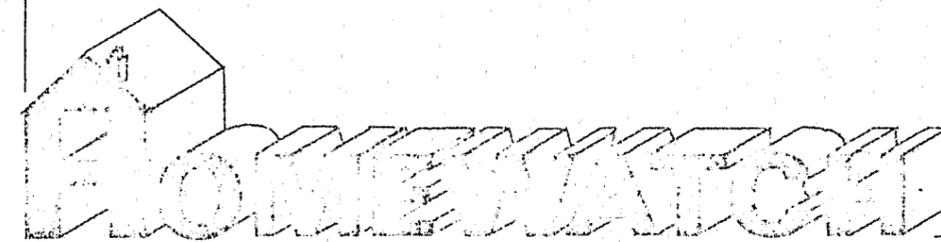
BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

Values Stolen

Values	Number of Crimes
Nil	1519
Under £5	575
£5 - £25	1541
£25 - £100	1505
£100 - £500	1161
£500 - £1,000	270
£1,000 - £5,000	230
£5,000 - £10,000	17
£10,000 - £50,000	5
Over £50,000	Nil

Fact The average value stolen £164.00
 The average value recovered £39.00



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

What Was Stolen

Fixtures

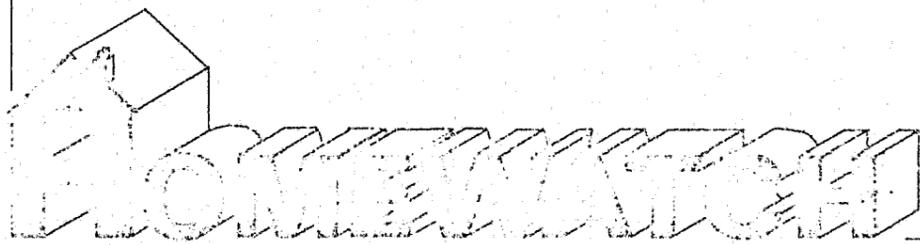
Electricity meters	6
Gas meters	8
Telephones	2
Kitchen sink	1

Cash and Securities

Cash	596
Savings books	7
Pension books	3
Credit cards	8
Premium bonds	3
Cheques	29
Cash box	31

Clocks

Clocks	54
Watches	106



Clothing

Clothing	72
Laundry	21

Documents

Documents or letters	20
Driving licences	4

Perambulators

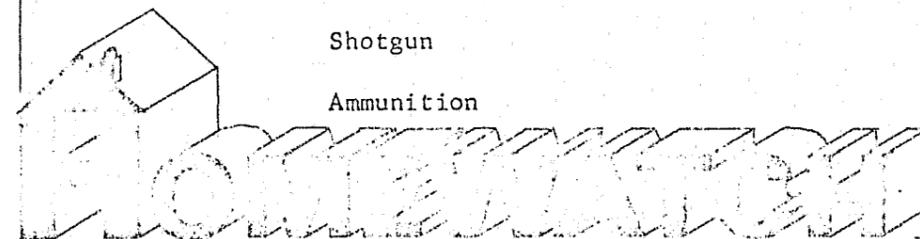
Prams	2
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Electrical Goods

Cooker	1
Freezer	1
Refrigerator	1
Sewing Machine	1
Shaver	18
Vacuum cleaner	5
Other	30

Weapons

Air guns	11
Pistol	1
Rifle	1
Shotgun	7
Ammunition	9



Fuel

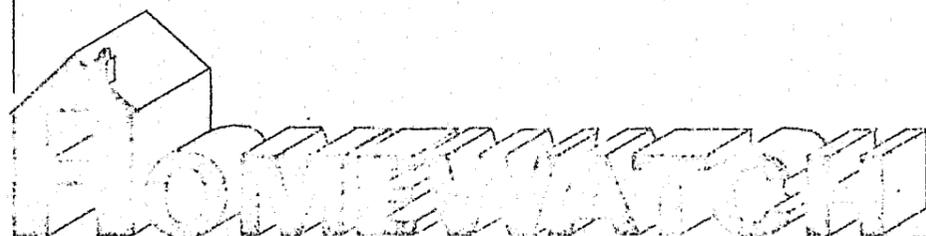
Gas cylinder	2
Heating oil	1
Coal	1

Food and Drink

Alcohol	71
Fish	1
Fruit	4
Grocery	41
Meat	8
Milk	10
Soft drinks	5
Sweets	10

Household Articles

Carpets	9
Crockery	10
Cutlery	15
Furniture	12
Ornaments	18
Glassware	9
Kitchen utensils	15



Instruments

Medical	1
Musical	4

Jewellery and Valuables

Figurines	23
Jewellery	162
Paintings	5
Porcelain	3
Silver	30
Other	23

Medical

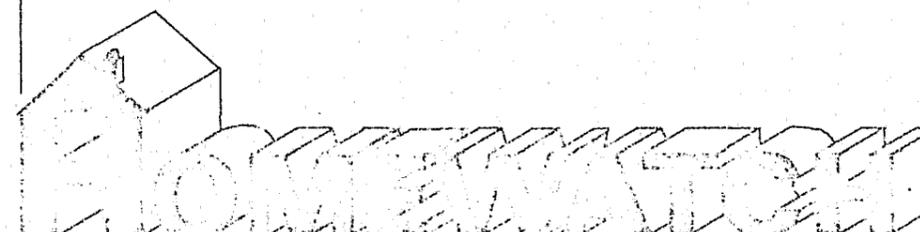
Drugs	3
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Metal

Metal	5
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Office Equipment

Calculators	15
Typewriters	4
Office equipment	10



Optical Equipment

Binoculars	13
Cameras	25
Photographic accessories	5

Personal Effects

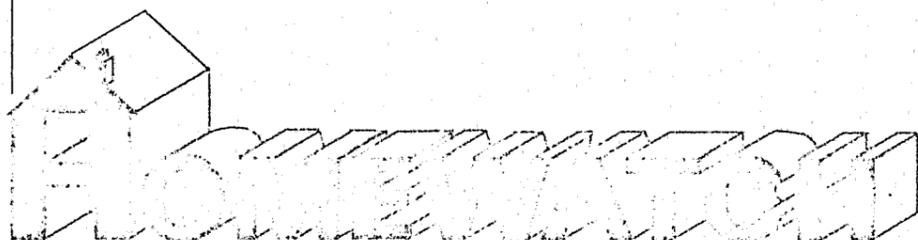
Cosmetics	19
Suitcases	24
Wallets/purses	62

Equipment

Fire extinguisher	1
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Radio and TV

Cassette players	57
Cassette tapes	44
Radio	82
Record Player	21
Stereo equipment	43
Tape recorder	11
Black and white TV	35
Colour TV	33



Recreation Equipment

Camping equipment	2
Sports clothing	1
Sports equipment	5

Smoking Requisites

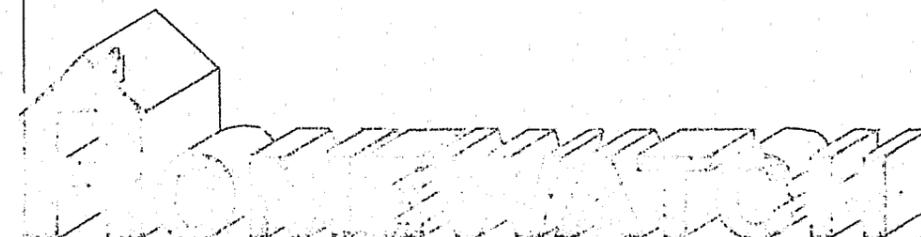
Cigarettes	52
Lighters	44
Tobacco	2

Tools

Garden tools	3
Hand tools	15
Electrical drill	4

Toys

Toys	14
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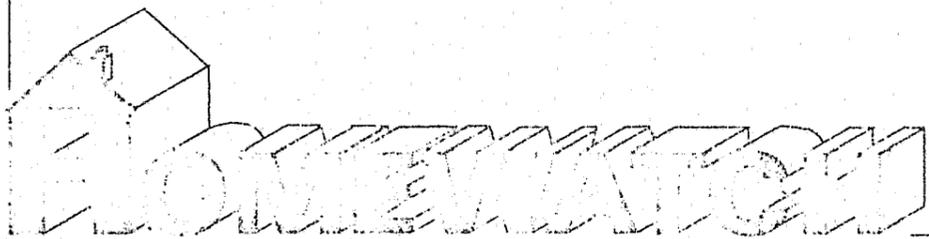


BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

Method Used By The Burglar

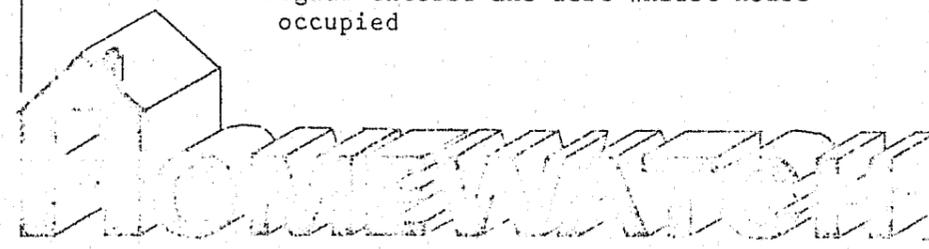
Bodily pressure on doors and windows	2939
Brace and bit attack on door	12
Burglar concealed on premises	5
Climbed drainpipe	105
Used duplicate key	213
Glass cutter used on door or window	23
House left insecure by occupant	1965
Jemmy or other instrument used	986
Found key left by occupier	174
Ladder used	40
Removed putty from door or window and removed glass	81
Smash and grab	15
Sticky paper used before breaking glass	13
Trick used	21
Inserting hand through letterbox and releasing lock	47
Prior visit by pseudo antique dealer	28



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES, 1977

METHODS USED BY THE BURGLAR

Bogus caller	
Meter reader	10
Other official	5
Property repairs	10
Telephone caller	4
Curtains drawn by burglar	441
Disguise used by burglar	2
Doors secured or wedged to delay discovery	235
Drawers and desks searched	1290
Exit prepared	413
Food/drink consumed	207
Garden tools used	68
Matches used for illumination	79
House fouled by intruder	133
Burglar left property	
In garden	180
In house	111
Property removed in pillow/curtain	260
Stone thrown through window	125
Telephone wires cut	57
Burglar entered and left whilst house occupied	597

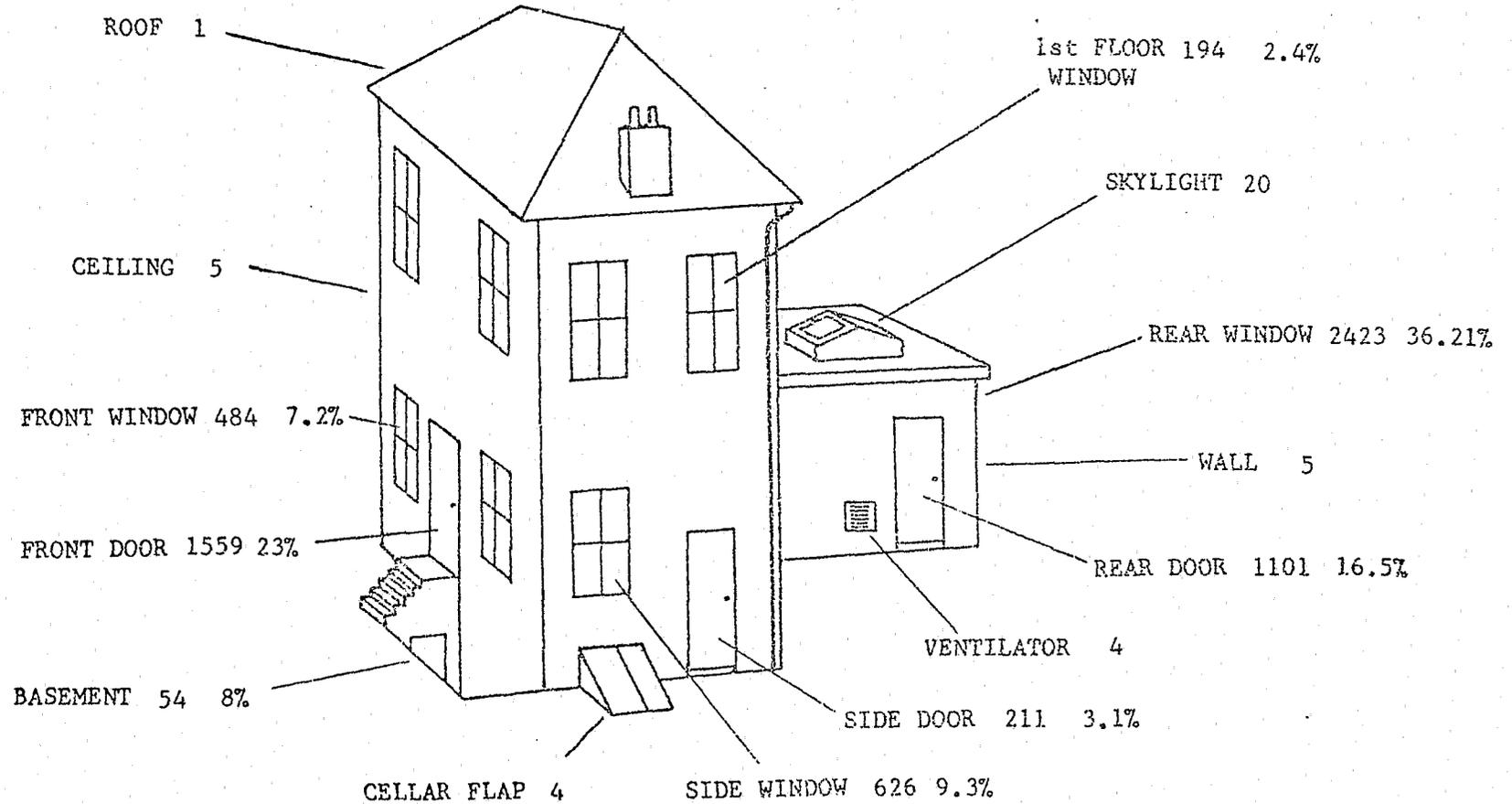


BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES 1977

WHERE THE BURGLAR GOT IN

DOORS — 42.6%

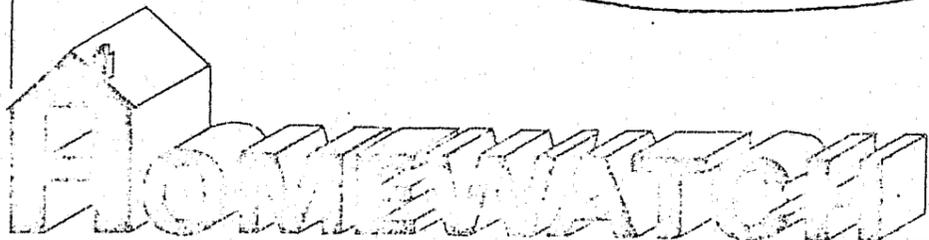
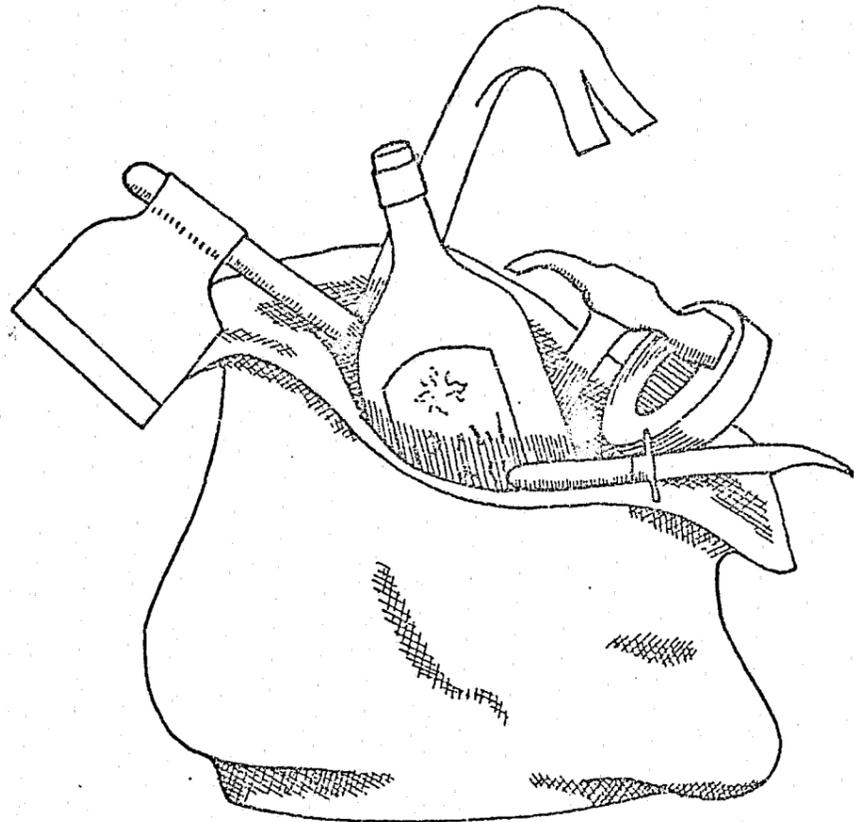
WINDOWS — 55.7%



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES 1977

TOOLS USED BY THE BURGLAR

ADHESIVE TAPE	---	3
AXE	---	6
BOTTLE	---	1
HAMMER	---	8
KNIFE	---	16
JEMMY OR CHISEL	---	85
OTHER	---	114



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

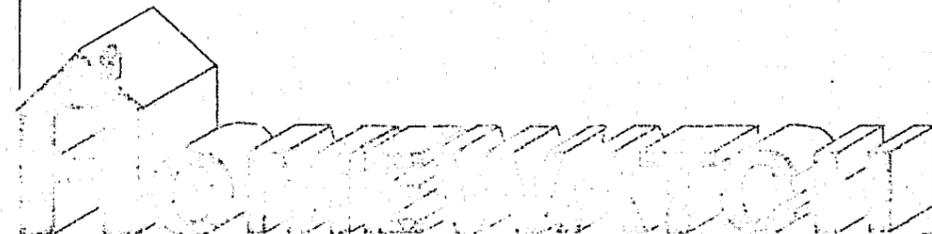
1977

20 Safes Were Attacked

Key was left in the safe	3
Attempt to force	9
Safe removed from house	8

1568 Meters Were Attacked

Electricity meters	1065
Gas meters	428
Gaming machine	7
Juke-box	4
Telephone coin container	4
Pay slot TV	55
Other	5



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

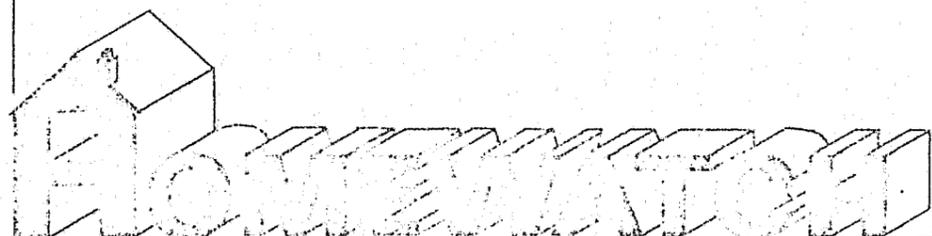
53 Houses Protected by Burglar Alarms were Attacked

Type -

Direct line to Police	3
'999' Alarm	11
Radio Alarm	14
Bell only Alarm	23
Personal attack system	2

Results -

Burglar left empty handed	32
Limited system avoided by burglar	9
Alarm not switched on by occupier	8
Burglar arrested	2
Alarm activated, burglar escaped with property	2
1 @ £2.50	
1 @ £20	



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

Sex and Age of Burglars Detected

Age	Under 10	10-14	14-17	17-21	21-30	30+
Male	38	128	349	277	205	141
Female	7	22	25	13	20	7

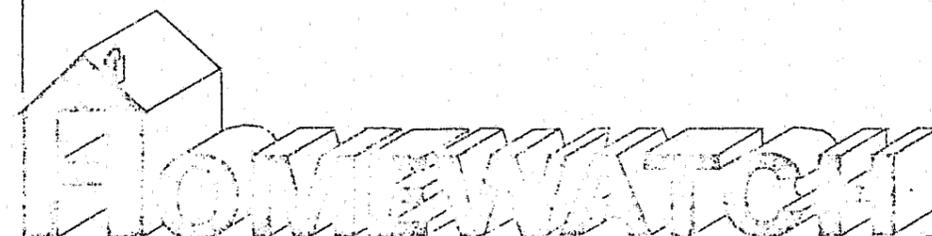
FACT: 45% of burglars are under 17 years old
 68% of burglars are under 21 years old

Offenders

Offenders	Offences
1 alone committed	1281
2 together committed	560
3 together committed	149
4 together committed	24
5 together committed	7
8 together committed	2

Nationality of Burglars

British	1209
Eire	13
EEC Countries	3
Canada	1

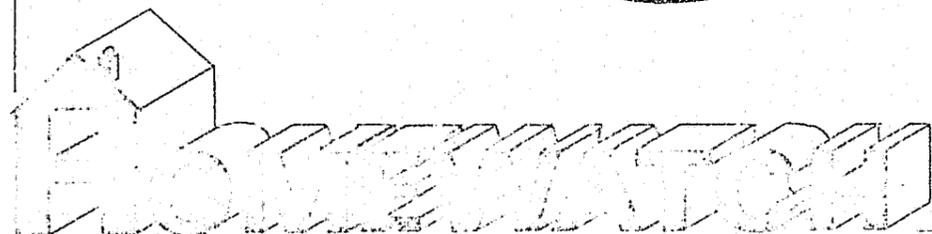


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BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

MULTIPLE OFFENDERS

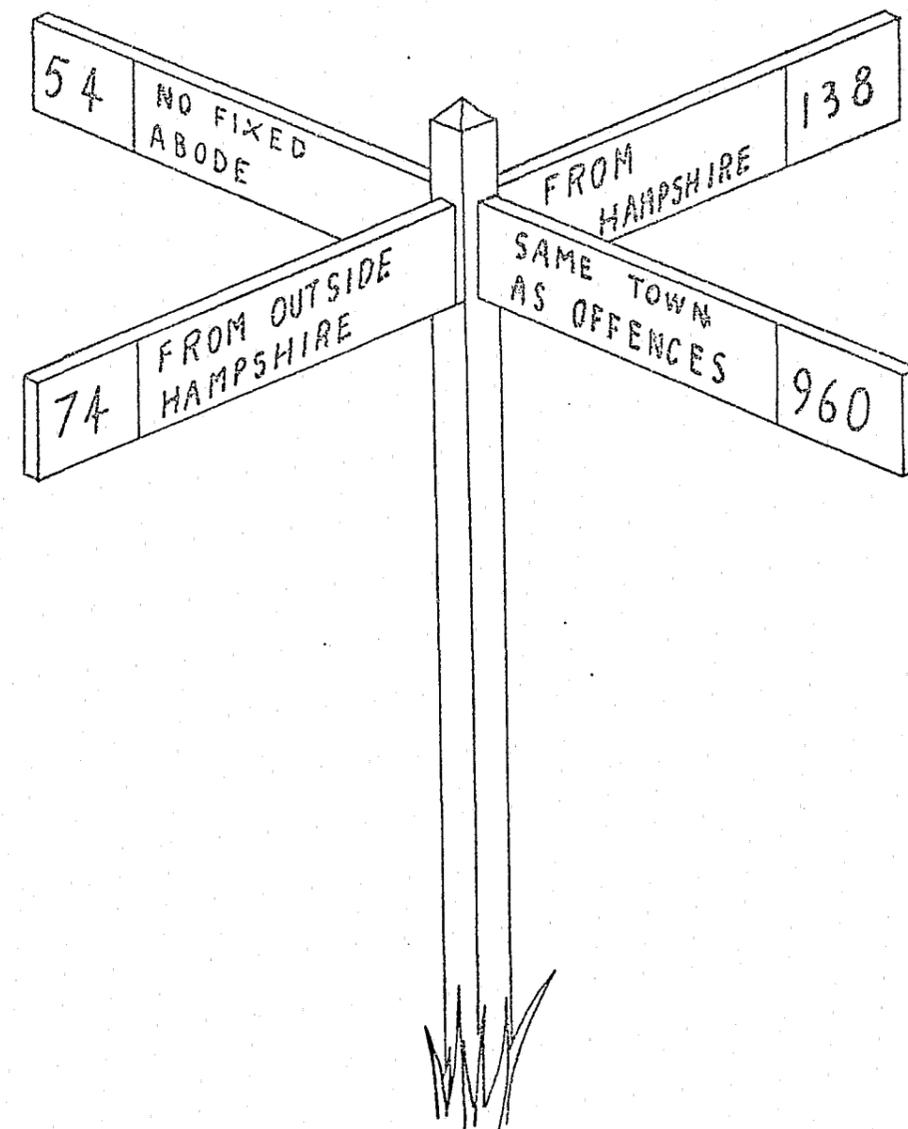
1977	
103	1
73	1
57	1
31	2
30	1
28	1
25	1
24	2
22	1
21	1
19	3
18	1
16	3
15	6
14	4
13	1
12	6
11	7
10	9
9	10
8	8
7	12
6	24
5	30
4	41
3	55
2	165
1	892

No. of offences committed	By no. of offenders
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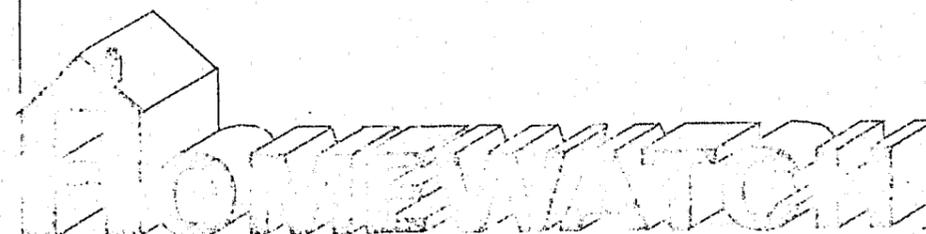


BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977
WHERE THE OFFENDER CAME FROM



FACT: 78% of burglars commit their offences locally



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

HOME CIRCUMSTANCES OF OFFENDER

Living with parents	Living with wife husband	Living in lodgings or with friends	No Fixed Abode
715	120	337	54

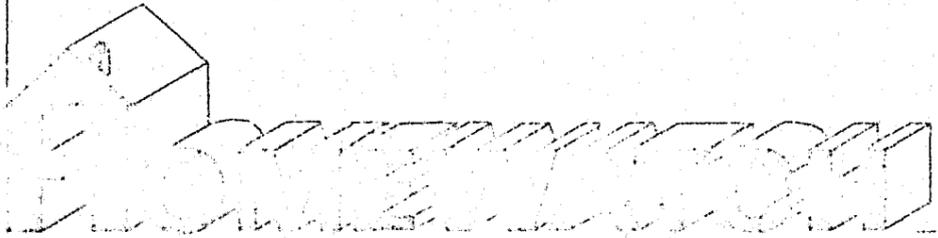


FACT: 58% of burglars live with parents

MARITAL STATUS OF OFFENDER

Married	120
Single	956
Divorced/Widowed etc.	150

FACT: 78% of burglars are unmarried

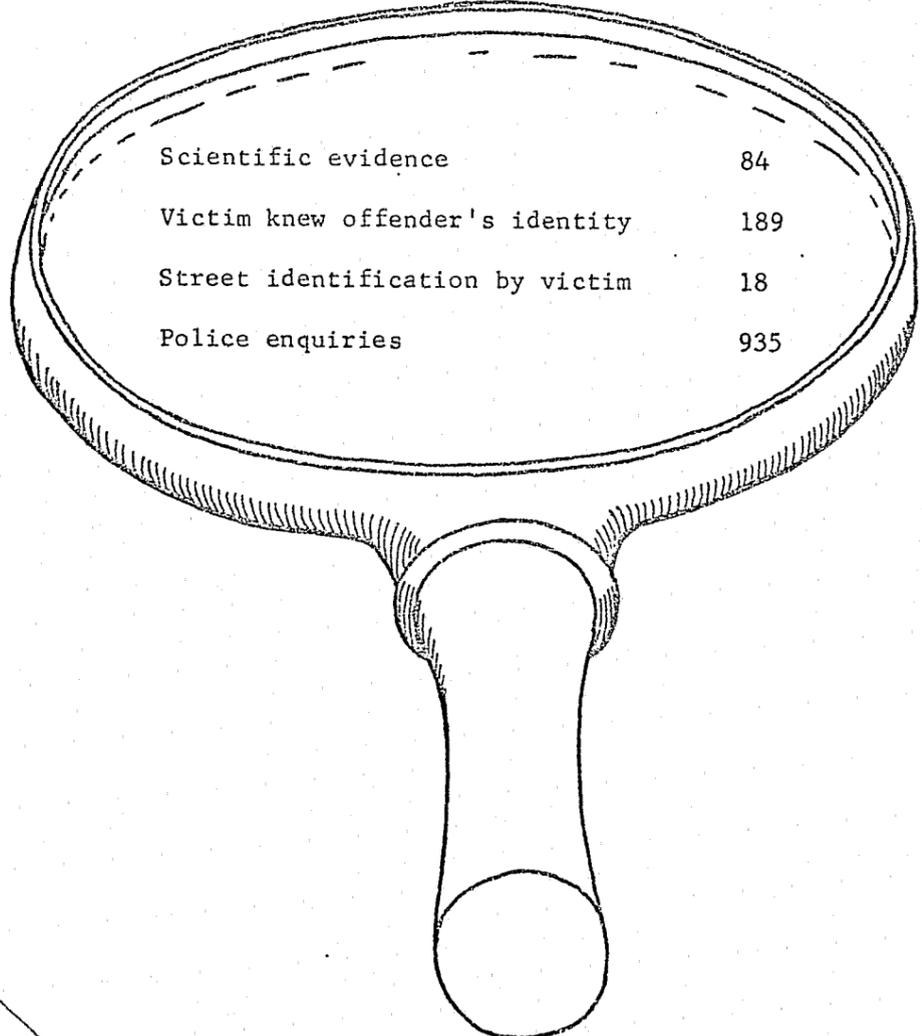
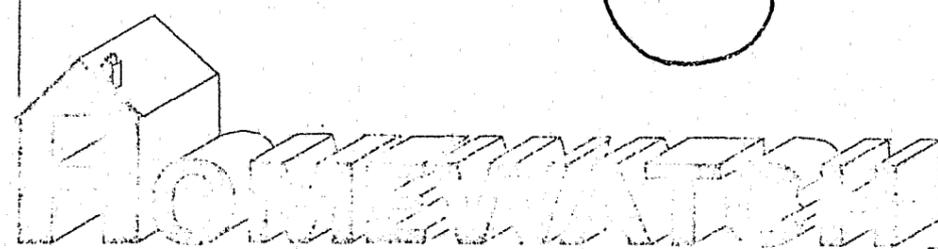


BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

HOW THE OFFENDER WAS IDENTIFIED

Scientific evidence	84
Victim knew offender's identity	189
Street identification by victim	18
Police enquiries	935

BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

1977

The Way The Police Found The Crime

Personal call at Police Station by victim	640
Informant	45
'999' call	5481
Burglar alarm	17
Letter	15
Discovered by Police patrol	67
Reported to Police patrol	92
Discovered as a result of Police enquiries	466

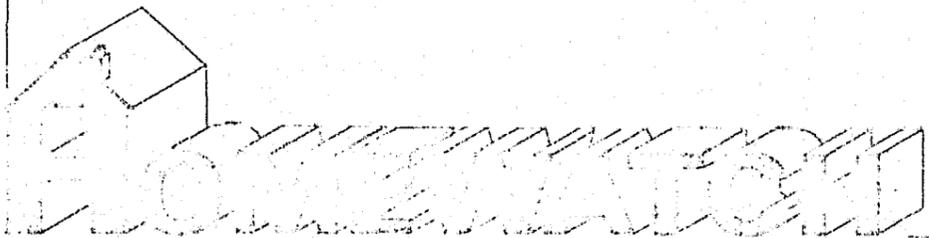
Which Police Branch Detected The Burglar

Uniform	-	278
C.I.D.	-	853
Combined	-	95

Which Courts Dealt With The Burglar

Hampshire Magistrates' Court	155
Other Magistrates' Court	18
Hampshire Juvenile Court	244
Other Juvenile Court	11
Isle of Wight Crown Court	7
Portsmouth Crown Court	196
Southampton Crown Court	111
Winchester Crown Court	100
Other Crown Courts	27
H.M. Forces Court Martial	3

(Note: All offenders detected have not yet appeared before a Court).



BURGLARY OF DWELLING HOUSES

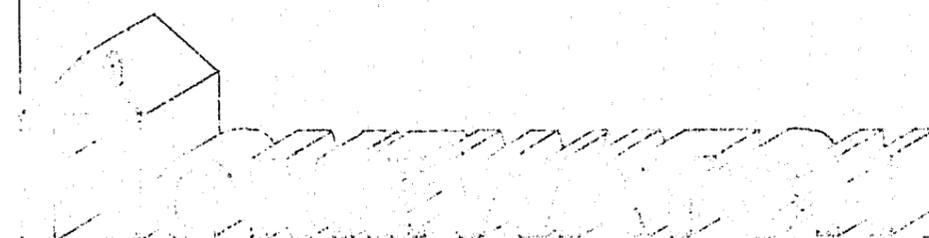
1977

How the Burglar was Dealt With

Absolute discharge	5
Attendance centre	22
Borstal	120
Care order	48
Case dismissed	15
Police caution	49
Community Service order	10
Conditional discharge	40
Deferred sentence	21
Detention centre	112
Fine	91
Proceedings barred	178
Hospital order	8
Imprisonment	203
No further action	17
Probation	69
Supervision order	50
Suspended sentence	48
Other	11

NOTE: Some offenders have two or more sentences.

FACT: 41% of burglars receive a custodial sentence.



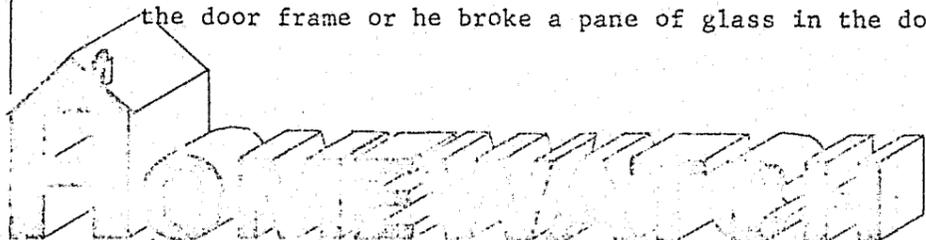
WAYS TO DEFEAT THE BURGLAR

It must be accepted right from the start that the determined and ruthless criminal will probably defeat your efforts to keep him out of your home. Fortunately, these criminals are few and far between and their efforts are normally directed to much higher values than you or I are likely to possess.

As you will see from the previous pages almost all housebreakers are young, inexperienced and very frightened whilst at their criminal work. If we make entry to these budding housebreakers just a little more difficult we will send them elsewhere.

The facts of life concerning Hampshire housebreakings in 1977 are typical and show that in 27% of all cases the housebreaker entered through an unlocked door or open window. The first lesson is clear. USE THE SECURITY DEVICES FITTED TO ALL HOUSES. Outer doors should be locked and accessible windows closed when the house is unoccupied and that includes the short time whilst collecting kids from school or when shopping.

In a further 42% of burglaries the thief didn't need housebreaking tools of any kind. His shoulder against the door was sufficient to force the lock or break the lock and keeper from the door frame or he broke a pane of glass in the door or window

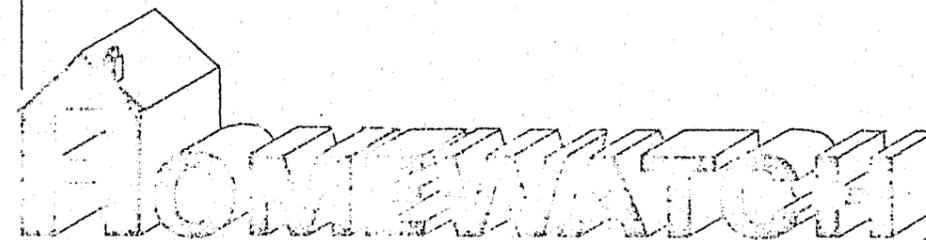


and released the night latch or window fastener. The second lesson becomes clear. FIT BRITISH STANDARD THIEF RESISTANT LOCKS TO FRONT AND REAR DOORS AND WINDOW LOCKS TO ALL ACCESSIBLE WINDOWS.

The criminal has an inhibition about glass. He is not afraid to quietly break a small hole in it but it is very rare for him to force a hole large enough to climb through or for him to remove the whole pane. Window locks are effective and the deadlocking night latch, where a second turn of the key locks the bolt in place, is vital for the narrow styled and glazed front door.

The burglar will not attack an occupied house and he relies on signs you unwittingly leave him to know of your absence. These signs are, for instance, milk left out, papers in letter box, curtain open and no lights on after dark, garage doors left open when the car is away in use. Lesson three is DO NOT ADVERTISE YOUR ABSENCE.

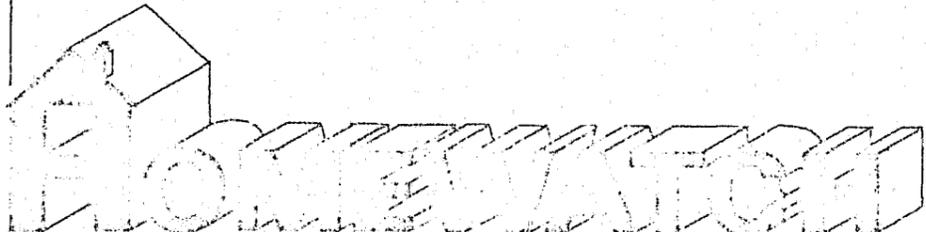
Most of us are on friendly terms with at least some of our neighbours and the concept of MUTUAL PROTECTION is of considerable value. Your neighbours should be encouraged to watch over your home while you are away. That includes whilst away for short periods of time as well as the more obvious ones of holidays.



This friendly assistance can be most effective and your neighbours should be asked to report any suspicious happenings to the police. There is nothing lost if suspicions are groundless but an awful lot to lose if the suspected is ignored. The arrangement should, of course, be reciprocal. Lesson four is INVOLVE YOUR NEIGHBOURS IN A MUTUAL PROTECTION SCHEME.

There are some general points which will also assist you in protecting your home. Burglars do not like the thought of being heard or seen. The measures suggested so far will ensure that his entry is severely delayed and that he must make considerable noise. If, in addition, we can improve visual access to the house it will be a bonus. We run into the problem of loss of privacy, however, and this has to be balanced against the risk. At night the front and rear of the house should be illuminated. Floodlighting is not necessary, an ordinary 100 watt shatterproof light will do but again their use has to be carefully balanced against the local environment. It would not be realistic to keep neighbours awake with your lights and expect their co-operation in other ways. Your local electricity board will be pleased to advise. Lesson five is BE SECURITY CONSCIOUS.

For many years the police have exhorted house owners to lock up tool sheds and ladders; to cancel milk and newspapers when on holiday and not to hide the door key, etc. etc. The advice still holds good.

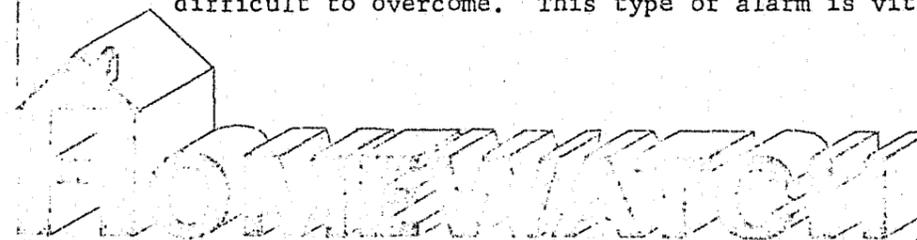


THE LARGER RISK

Where your crime risk is above the average, for instance, if you have valuable antiques or a collection of porcelain, stamps or silver, extra precautions are necessary. The rewards from an attack against your house in those circumstances are high and we must anticipate a higher degree of expertise and ruthlessness from the criminal. It is not acceptable to most of us to have our houses looking like fortresses and we must, therefore, turn our eyes towards electronic protection.

Where the installation of a burglar alarm is considered necessary there are several factors to be borne in mind. The two main types of alarm are the audible system and the police calling system. The audible has much to commend it but it does have its limitations. In its favour is the fact that the bell normally scares away the intruder and the fact that it is relatively cheap and trouble free. Its disadvantages are that its effectiveness is dependant upon someone hearing it and taking the necessary action to alert the police and that it rarely results in the arrest of the intruder who can carry on his career of crime elsewhere.

The police calling unit has delayed bells but relies on silently alerting the police. The system is generally more sophisticated and therefore more expensive but more difficult to overcome. This type of alarm is vital to protect



the higher risks and for houses in isolated positions. The police in Hampshire arrested 199 burglars from burglar alarms in 1977.

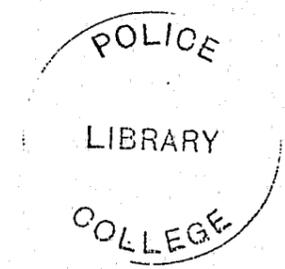
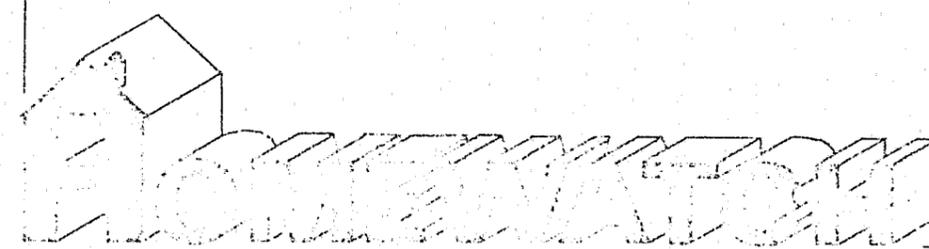
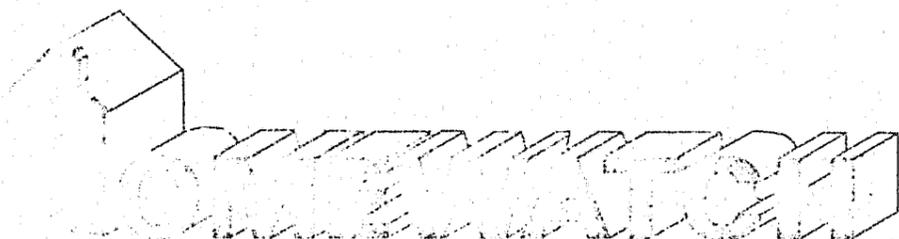
In this short article we have progressed from simple and inexpensive methods of protection from the burglar, through to sophisticated and fairly expensive measures for the larger risk. The whole field of security and the prevention of crime is one requiring a high degree of expertise and knowledge. This expertise and knowledge is yours free of charge, without obligation and with absolute confidentiality through the Hampshire Constabulary Crime Prevention Department. A member of the Department can be contacted through your local police station or by writing to the Chief Constable of Hampshire, Police Headquarters, West Hill, Winchester. Letters should be addressed for the attention of the Force Crime Prevention Officer.

THE HAMPSHIRE POLICE CRIME PREVENTION DEPARTMENT

Officers of the Department have many years of experience of crime and criminal methods and of practical and economic ways of combating crime. Their services are free, without obligation and absolutely confidential.

They can be contacted through any Police Station or:-

<u>Police Division</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>
Aldershot	Sergeant Tom Lawrence	Aldershot 24545
Basingstoke	Sergeant Tony Buckley	Basingstoke 3111
Winchester	Sergeant Terry Morris	Winchester 68100
New Forest	Mr. Norman Kilham	Lyndhurst 2813
Southampton	Sergeant David Spokes Mr. Jack Turner	Southampton 26222
Bitterne	Mr. Jack Gledhill	Southampton 49222
Fareham	Mr. Vernon Hardy	Fareham 86111
Havant	Sergeant Maurice Baigent	Havant 486464
Portsmouth	Sergeant Don Potts Mr. Les Scott	Portsmouth 22222
Isle of Wight	Sergeant Bill Heath	Newport 4021
Force Crime Prevention Officer	Inspector Barry Burton	Winchester 68133



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