

Mail says ...

Follow advice to keep the burglars out

Christmas is less than two weeks away and most families across Burton and South Derbyshire will already have got their festive shopping done and dusted.

But it's important to remember there are still people out there looking to deceive and steal from others – ruining a day that should be happy for everyone.

It's amazing how a few simple steps can deter burglars from illegally entering a property. Whether this is changing the locks on your house or hiding car keys somewhere safe, every move is sure to make a home even more secure.

It's great to know that local locksmiths are taking the time and trouble to issue advice on how to keep homes safe during the busiest time of the year.

Due to the nature of the job the locksmiths know exactly what thieves look for and how best to keep them at bay.

We hope our readers take these points into consideration and avoid a disheartening Christmas.

Some points include:

- Closing curtains to avoid "lighting up" valuable presents under a tree;
- Avoiding leaving empty boxes outside your home. Boxes are evidence of expensive goods, proving attractive to a burglar;
- Asking a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property if you go away; and
- Avoiding advertising on social media that you are going away.

It's full steam ahead for visitor centre

It is great news that plans for a £1.9 million visitor centre at Claymills Victorian Pumping Station have moved a crucial step closer.

Now that previous car park problems at the historic landmark have been resolved it is full steam ahead for the tourist attraction which is growing in visitor numbers.

The museum has now made amendments to its car parking layout so it will join the proposed visitor centre and the second stage of the application can begin.

The museum withdrew its previous application for its lottery-funded visitor centre as concerns were raised over the parking designs.

It is always good news to hear an attraction doing so well in the area and just proves that tourism is on the up, making Burton a go-to place for holidaymakers.

HOME SECURITY

Top tips to keep Christmas criminals out of the house

By Paige Oldfield

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A local locksmith has issued seasonal security advice to help homeowners throughout Burton and South Derbyshire stay safe over the Christmas period.

Mark Santi, of Hartshorne-based Pick Me Locksmith, has provided an invaluable insight into what crooks look out for when targeting vulnerable homes.

Here are his top tips on how to keep your home secure this Christmas.

1. December 23 – The busiest day in December for burglars. Insurance companies expect a spike in break-ins.

2. Close curtains to avoid "lighting up" valuable presents under a tree. Boxed/packaged items, ready for resale, light up like a shop window and attract those with criminal intent.

3. Avoid leaving empty boxes outside your home. Boxes are evidence of expensive goods, and are attractive



Insurers expect a spike in home burglary figures on December 23.

to burglars.

4. Hide car keys. There has been an increase in houses being broken into, car

keys stolen, and burglars returning to steal the cars, especially those with high performance.

5. Lock all doors and windows and remove the keys.
6. Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property if you go away.

7. Social media can be an itinerary of your movements to a thief, i.e. going on holiday or going away to stay with family. Be careful with specifics. Who has access to your personal pages?

8. Insurance compliance. If you do have a burglary, have you met your insurer's requirements so you will be compensated? Are high-value gifts covered by home contents insurance? Be sure to keep receipts/manuals.

9. Lock tools and ladders away. They can be used to break windows and gain access. Keep bins behind gates if possible as they can be used to access properties.

10. Secure boundaries, including fencing and gates.

11. Consider buying new locks.

For further advice on preventing a break-in at your home, visit www.pickmelocksmith.com

CHARITY

Bass Vase cash is given to prostate project

A Burton hospitals-led prostate screening scheme to ward off the most common male cancer has received a cash boost thanks to one of English football's longest-running cup tournaments.

A cheque of £500 was presented to representatives from the Bass Charity Vase Group to Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which offers prostate cancer screening – Inspire Health – Fighting Prostate Cancer.

The group is led by Jyoti Shah, a consultant urological surgeon at Queen's Hospital, in Burton.

The campaign aims to get more men checked for signs of the cancer, with screening held regularly at locations where men typically feel more comfortable, such as the Pirelli Stadium.

Before kick-off at the recent Brewers Championship 2-1 loss to Preston North End on Saturday, December 9, the £500 cheque was presented to Jyoti Shah and Sarah Minns from the Burton hospital trust.

The money was raised from the charity Bass Vase match played between Burton Albion and West Brom in July.

The Bass Vase was founded in Burton in 1889 as a football competition competed annually by major Midland teams.



From the left, Paul Furniss from Burton Albion Community Trust, Sarah Minns and Jyoti Shah from Queen's Hospital flanking mascot Billy Brewer, chairman of Burton Albion Ben Robinson, and trustee from the Bass Charity Vase David Mellor, at the cheque presentation at the Pirelli Stadium on Saturday.

The proceeds from the games are donated to various charities.

Early patrons for the competition included Lord Burton and Hamar Alfred Bass, who presented an inscribed Rose Bowl to the winners of the competition each year.

Other past winners of the competition over the years include Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Coventry City, Derby County, Leicester City,

Liverpool, Notts County, Nottingham Forest and Stoke City.

Back in July, holders Burton Albion took on Premier League side, West Bromwich Albion at the Pirelli Stadium, with the visitors chalking up a 1-0 win thanks to a goal from Jay Rodriguez.

Jyoti Shah, the consultant urological surgeon for Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: "I am incred-

ably humbled by the reach of our campaign and extremely grateful for the kind donation the Bass Charity Vase has given us.

"It is vital to keep the campaign at the forefront as it is saving lives."

Anybody looking for more information about upcoming screening events can visit the dedicated website online at <https://fightingprostatecancer.co.uk/>