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Burglary

It may come as no surprise that there were 69 more burglaries to dwellings in 2006 than there were in 1985. It may also be no surprise that there are now 14,000 more homes in Bracknell Forest than there were in 1985. That means however that you are at less risk of being burgled now than 22 years ago.

With some care and attention the number of burglaries could still fall lower. The common types of burglary include forcing the front or back door; this is often during the day time when occupants are out and are easy for the burglar when the locks on the door are inadequate. During the summer months windows and doors are often left open in hot weather making the work of the thief even easier. If you're out of the house, even down the end of the garden, keep windows and doors securely closed.

Another method of entry popular with burglars is to open doors by reaching through the letter box, sometimes with some sort of device and opening a door thought to be locked. This type of entry is popular at night time and is especially popular with thieves who wish to steal your car as modern cars can only be stolen with the keys. The fire service have agreed that it is safe to lock your door from the inside as long as the keys are accessible. Also try to leave car keys in a less obvious place than the usual hook on the kitchen wall. Don't make it easy for them.

Lastly, a less popular form of burglary but potentially devastating for the victim is the distraction burglary. These burglars prey on the elderly and the vulnerable so keep an eye out for elderly neighbours. If anyone calls at your home asking to come in, always check their identification and make sure you are happy with it. If in doubt, you can call all the main utility companies, Forest Care on 01344 786500 or Thames Valley Police on 0845 8 505 505. If you are really concerned, call 999. You should always never give anyone your PIN number. There is never a reason for anyone to ask you for this.