

# SOMERCOTES Local!

News, events and local interest.

Autumn Edition 2013

[www.somercotesparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.somercotesparishcouncil.co.uk)

A Somercotes Parish Council Newsletter



## Parish Council provides NEW SKATE PARK

Somercotes Parish Council has long realised that the Skate Park area was in need of updating and young people have had their say in the new provision of equipment which has included a 'Quarter Pipe' Roll In, Jump Box & Spine. Whilst the Borough Council was unable to assist financially due to austerity measures, they did support and approve the installation of new equipment on their land. The Parish Council, due to an additional grant, were able to fund the new equipment (£15k) under a community grant from within their budgets.

Cllr Paul Smith (Chairman of the Parish Council) said "The Parish Council is absolutely delighted to support the young people of Somercotes in funding this project. We listened to and consulted with local young people before approving the project and it is hoped that everyone will appreciate the improvements and continue to use them"



## Leabrooks Allotment Association awarded £9k Lottery Funding for a new Compus Toilet

Leabrooks Allotment Association Committee agreed a 4 year development plan to improve their allotments for its members. The development plan included new entrance gates, additional water stand-pipes and a 'Compus Toilet'. The new gates and water stand-pipes were provided by the Parish Council and support funding from a Derbyshire Community Grant (£600.00). A successful application was made to the National Lottery 'Awards For All' programme to secure the 'Compus Toilet' system. Members of the Allotment Association will install the new toilet system, now that planning permission has been granted. The Chairman, Clive Hibbitt said "Our allotments is now family orientated and the days of men going behind hedges for the toilet needed to change. So with the support of the Parish Council we have achieved many of our aims and the culmination of our efforts has been the successful lottery bid for the new 'Compus toilet' system that will be hugely beneficial to everyone who has plots on our allotments. I would like to thank the Parish Council for their invaluable support in making all our improvements possible."



## Grants Presentation at the Village Hall



Councillor Paul Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council, presented Section 137 Grant cheques to local groups and organisations, and also to organisations who serve the Parish, in the lounge of the Village Hall on Friday, 7th June 2013. **More Pictures on Page 6**

*Somercotes*  
**VILLAGE HALL**

Available for Weddings,  
Dances, Parties etc.  
*Hall or Lounge available*

Use of kitchen (by arrangement) included in hire cost  
Licensed Bar available • Ample car parking available

**We cannot take bookings for 18th Birthday Parties**

Somercotes Village Hall, Nottingham Road,  
Somercotes DE55 4LY Tel: 01773 609397



# Weddings

## THROUGH THE YEARS AT ST. THOMAS' CHURCH

We have obtained pictures of weddings from the 1950's, 1970's, 1980's and 1990's, but had no luck with the 1960's. Does anyone want to share their 1960's wedding picture with the residents of Somercotes, and does anyone have even earlier wedding pictures from the first half of the 20th century that we could publish in a future issue? Please contact Glymis at the Village Hall if so.

### JANET HURT & DAVID BRADLEY

married in July 1958.

The two older bridesmaids wore pink and the little bridesmaid wore blue. Janet lived at Leabrooks and David was from Ripley. The reception was held at the Church Hall on Sleetmoor Lane. They have lived in Somercotes since their marriage and have three children and 6 grandchildren.



### JUNE IRIS FELLOWS & ROY PADLEY

were married on 20th December 1958 at 2.30 pm by the Reverend John Oldham. The wedding reception was held at The Old English Gentleman, and on the following Sunday they went to Blackpool for their honeymoon and Christmas. Iris was from Somercotes and Roy lived at Alferton. They now live at Riddings.



### CLAIRE WATSON & PAUL JOHNSON

married in October 1991. There were two bridesmaids and a ring bearer. Claire and Paul were both residents of the parish at the time. They now live at Swanwick and have two daughters and a son.



### ELAINE LADYMAN & JOHN McCABE

married on 25th October 1986. Their 3 bridesmaids wore pink Bo-Peep style dresses. Elaine and John were both from Somercotes, Elaine living at the Wood Street end of Leamoor Avenue at No. 39, and John at the Sleetmoor Lane end at No. 77. They lived in Riddings after their marriage, before moving back to Somercotes when their daughter, Sian, now 20, was a little girl.



### SHARON HANDBURY & CLIVE WINT

married in April 1975. Sharon lived on Somercotes Hill and Clive lived on Cinder Crescent. Three little girls aged between 4 and 6 were bridesmaids, and they wore pale blue floral dresses and flowered bonnets.



### PAULA BRADLEY & MARTYN PAINTER

married on 27th April 1996. One bridesmaid, the bride's sister, wore blue and the four younger bridesmaids wore blue floral dresses. Paula and Martyn now live at Swanwick and have a son, James. Paula's parents (Janet and David) are also pictured at the top of this page.





# Weddings AT BIRCHWOOD METHODIST CHURCH THE 21ST CENTURY

**KATHRYN ELIZABETH BLOUNT &  
MICHAEL JAMES SIMPSON**

were married at 12 noon on 4th June 2012. Michael had attended the church since he was 3 years old. Michael and Kathryn (always known as Beth) met when they were pupils at Ripley Mill Hill School.



**CATHERINE PALMER & DANIEL PARKER**

left England in 2005 to begin a new life in New Zealand, but in 2011 they made the long journey home to marry on 25th June. Catherine was born in Birchwood Lane in December 1976, and had attended Birchwood Methodist Church for many years, and said "Birchwood was always a large part of my life as I grew up. To marry anywhere else would not be the same. Birchwood is where I want to begin this new chapter in my life with family and friends around me".



## Derbyshire Ancestral Research Group

Our thanks to Margaret Brooksbank of DARG for this article to mark Remembrance Day on 11th November 2013.

### MEMORIES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Between the start of the War and April 1915 well over 200 men of Somercotes, Leabrooks and Pye Bridge had enlisted to fight in the First World War. Of them and the many others who fought, 81 made the ultimate sacrifice. The War effort was very strong in the area with many instances documented in the newspapers along with welcome news about our brave men.:-

#### 1915 January 29th

A large meeting was held at Somercotes on Wednesday evening for the purpose of forming a unit of the HOME GUARD for the district. Many enrolled themselves, MR GEORGE BEASTALL being elected representative upon the Alfreton Central Committee, MR SA J HILL, the Instructor and MR W CHARLTON, Secretary.

#### 1915 July 2nd

A largely attended and successful open air Whist Drive promoted by the leading residents of Pye Bridge was held on Saturday, the proceeds being for the purpose of sending out comforts to the 50 odd men from the parish who are serving at the front. Upwards of 200 tickets were sold and, although only a very small Parish, Pye Bridge has sent out up to the present 53 men, 3 of whom have been killed, 2 wounded and 1 being a Prisoner of War in Germany.

#### 1915 October 22nd

Mr Wm HOLMES of Leabrooks has written about the difficulties and exploits of his brother, TROOPER A HOLMES, who is in the Dardenelles. In a letter he told of the terrible heat and sandstorms; he suffered like most from Dysentery, the cause being the amount of sand in the drinking water. The sound of the guns is deafening and the sound of the cries of the wounded is indescribable. He experienced his narrowest escape being hit by a Turkish sniper; the bullet went through his mess tin, jacket and shirt and out of his breast pocket and never touched him.

#### 1915 November 5th

PTE ERNEST FLEET of the 2nd Sherwoods, whose home is in Leabrooks, has been recognised for Distinguished Conduct at HOOGE. PTE FLEET has since been wounded and is now in hospital.

#### 1916 June 23rd

SERGEANT W GIBSON of Somercotes has been awarded the MILITARY MEDAL for Gallantry in the Field. He won it during a German Gas attack.

#### 1918 November 29th

SERGEANT W VARLEY returned home to his parents, MR & MRS T VARLEY of Charles Street, Leabrooks, on Monday after being a POW for over 4 years. He belonged to the Grenadier Guards and was one of the "Contemptables". He was taken prisoner in the retreat of MONS and was given a good reception when he arrived home.



# 'Sensational Somercotes' Time Capsule buried for future residents of Somercotes



Thanks Hazel for this picture of the staff and pupils who participated in the burial of the time capsule.

The theme for the children of Somerlea Park Junior School during the Spring term was the History and Geography of the local area and its community past and present. The children from classes 1 and 2, year 3 and 4, were involved in a project which consisted of looking at and identifying why their village was of great importance to the industrial revolution. The children were totally engaged with the historical aspect of Somercotes and the origins of its agricultural past, understanding the historical importance of our mining community, ironworks and brickworks industries, and also looking at the expansion of the village and the need for housing and schools in the 1800s to the new factories and industries that we know today. The school invited Hazel Mors, retired teacher and a member of the Somercotes Historical Society, to give a talk in school and to take the children in small groups on a walk/talk around the village to help the children identify areas of historical interest. During the last week of the term the children and teachers involved in this project, Miss Wileman and Miss Sharrocks, planned and executed the burial of a time capsule in the grounds of the school, each child choosing their own personal message and items to be buried and found by future generations.

## Places of Worship

### PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

Father Peter Davis  
Any Enquiries 01773 602717 or  
Churchwardens Rachel Watson 01773 607131 and Michael Woods 01773 723653

#### Services

Sunday: 9.30am Sung Mass  
9.30am – 10.00am Sunday School in the Village Hall  
6.00pm (Last Sunday in the Month)  
Evening Worship

Wednesday: 10.00am Said Mass

See Notice Board in the Church porch for other times of services.

Mother's Union meets in Church on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

Harvest Supper Monday 30th September from 7.30pm onwards

Parish Lunch Friday 27th September, 25th October, 29th November  
11.30am to 1.30 pm

Coffee Mornings Saturday 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November  
10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Remembrance 10th November, Meet at the War Memorial 5.55pm  
Sunday Service Service at 6pm

Remembrance Monday 11th November  
Day Meet at the War Memorial at 10.55 am

### BIRCHWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Service each Sunday at 3.00pm and a morning  
service once a month at 10.30am

Please see our Notice Board for further details  
of all events.

### SOMERCOTES SALVATION ARMY CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sleetmoor Lane Tel. Terence Carpenter on 01455 271752 or 07948 998507

#### Special Events

Sunday 1st Sept 3pm Festival of Harvest Praise  
Saturday 28th Sept 10am-12noon Coffee Morning & Big Sale  
(new goods, toys, kitchen ware, homemade  
cakes, toys, refreshments).

#### Weekly Activities

Sunday: All age Family Worship 3pm followed by refreshments.  
Monday at 3pm Over 50's Friends and Fellowship.  
Tuesday from 9.30am – 11 am Care/shareCoffee Morning.

#### Monthly Activities

Messy Church 5pm-7pm last Friday of each month for families – bible  
stories, games, crafts, film, singing, meal provided.  
Cafe Church 7pm-9pm last Sunday of each month -exploring the Christian  
Faith in a relaxed style.  
Craft/Sewing Group – 2pm-4pm first Friday of each month.  
(Sewing, knitting, crocheting, card making, arts)

### PENIEL CHRISTIAN CENTRE

67 Main Road, Leabrooks Telephone 01773 608737  
www.leabrookspec.com  
email:penielchristiancentre@leabrooks.freeserve.co.uk  
Leader: Mrs Elaine Whittingham

Sunday Services: Morning Service at 10.30am  
Evening Prayer Meeting at 5.30pm  
Praise Time at 6pm  
Tuesday: Ladies' Coffee Morning 10am – 12noon  
Discussions, prayer and praise. Light lunch.  
Prayer & Praise 6pm – 7pm A visiting speaker  
when available from 7pm onwards.  
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 8am – 10 am  
Friday: Youth Club 7pm-9pm (RIOT) 11 yrs -16 yrs  
Saturday: Kids Club 10am – 12noon 3yrs – 11 yrs  
Games, projects, bible story, lunch  
More than a Meal  
A meal provided for senior citizens once a month on a  
Monday. No charge but a donation appreciated.



# Weekly Events at Somercotes Village Hall

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Contact Number
<b>Monday</b>	1.30 pm – 4.00 pm In the Lounge	<b>Welfare Rights</b> (Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre)	No appointment needed	
	6.30 pm - 8.30 pm In the Hall	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Somercotes Guides</b> Group for girls aged 10-15 years	Call into a meeting for more details	
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00 am – 11.30 am In the Hall	<b>Hatha Yoga</b> Calms your mind and strengthens your body. All ability class.	Rav Paul	07963 350868
	10.00 am 12.00 noon and also at 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm In the Lounge	<b>Watercolour Classes</b> Newcomers always welcome. Lovely atmosphere, friendly people.	Norma Gent	01773 836907
	4.45 pm – 6.45 pm In the Hall	<b>Somercotes Beavers</b>	Paul Williams	07722 323129
	7.30 pm – 10 pm In the Hall	<b>Somercotes Ladies</b> Every Tuesday except 1 <sup>st</sup> in each month	Eileen Wilkinson	01773 603177
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am – 12.00noon In the Hall	<b>Cameo Coffee Club</b> Pop in – have a coffee – make new friends	Just call in	
	6.00 pm – 7.00 pm In the Hall	<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Just call in	
	8.00 pm – 9.00 pm In the Hall	<b>Zumba Fitness</b> Latin inspired, calorie burning, dance fitness	Dey and Liz dlzumba@hotmail.co.uk	07812 837969
<b>Thursday</b>	9.00 am – 11.00 am In the Lounge	<b>Watercolour Classes</b> All abilities welcome. Lovely atmosphere, friendly people.	Norma Gent	01773 836907
	6.00 pm – 7.15 pm In the Hall	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Somercotes (St.Thomas) Brownies</b> Group for girls aged 7-10 years	Call into a meeting for more details.	
	6.00 pm – 7.00 pm In the Lounge	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Somercotes (St.Thomas) Rainbows</b> Group for girls aged 5-7 years		
	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm In the Hall	<b>Classical Yoga</b> Philosophy & Posture, relaxation and breathwork. Newcomers welcome	Linda	01773 528264
<b>Friday</b>	10.00 am – 11.30 am In the Hall	<b>Hatha Yoga</b> Calms your mind and strengthens your body. All ability class	Rav Paul	07963 350868
	4.45 pm – 6.45 pm In the Hall	<b>Somercotes Cubs</b>	Paul Williams	07722 323129
	8.00 pm – 9.00 pm In the Hall	<b>Zumba Fitness</b> Latin inspired, calorie burning, dance fitness	Dey and Liz d/zumba@hotmail.co.uk	07812 837969
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>None at present</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30 am onwards In the Lounge In the Hall	Parish Church of St. Thomas Sunday School Coffee after Church Service	Rachel Watson (Churchwarden)	01773 607131

## HEARING CLINIC

Hearing Help (Amber Valley) will be holding clinics in the Lounge of Somercotes Village Hall (formerly the Parish Hall) on the following dates:-

Tuesday 10th September	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 25th September	11.00am – 12.30pm
Tuesday 8th October	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 23rd October	11.00am – 12.30pm
Tuesday 12th November	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 27th November	11.00am – 12.30pm

## PAINTING CLASS WORKSHOP

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013, from 10am until 4pm.**

**All abilities welcome.**

**Cost £30**

**Lunch will be provided.**

**Telephone Norma Gent on 01773 836907**

## Home Library Service

The Home Library Service now delivers to almost 70 people in the Somercotes area and the number is increasing. The service works from Alfreton Library and delivers once a month. For people who enjoy reading or listening to books, but who cannot get into a local library, or for those who are unable to carry the items they need, the service is free and could help. Books, large and normal print, books on tape and CD and also music CD's. All are available.

For further information, please contact Alfreton Library on 01773 833199

## Somercotes Library

Bank Street, Somercotes DE55 4JE Tel. 01773 540514

Email: Somercotes.library@derbyshire.gov.uk or look on the website www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Opening Times:	Mondays	2pm – 5pm
	Thursdays	9am – 1pm & 2pm – 7pm
	Fridays	9am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm
	Saturdays	9.30am – 1pm

**Come in and see what activities we have during the autumn**





# Letter from your County Councillor

## Paul Smith

### Dear Resident

It's been more than three months since the County Council Election and I am now a Deputy Cabinet Member for Health & Communities. My responsibilities include being the Chair of the Police & Crime Panel and Chairmanship of Derbyshire Sports Partnership, which is very exciting working to improve services for people. The new boundary changes means that there are now two Councillors who represent the Alfreton and Somercotes Electoral Division, myself and Cllr Steve Marshall-Clarke both having joint responsibility.

On local issues of concern that we have been dealing with, we are pleased to say that Pennytown Ponds have been awarded the Green Flag status again. We really appreciate that everybody's hard work has been recognised and how positively that area is now being talked about by the local communities and how well used it has now become.



Presenting Parish Council Section 137 Grant Cheque to the Scouts

Lighting improvements have now been made to Sherwood Street, Park Mews, Ralph Drive, Windmill Rise and Springfield Crescent with an additional light column installed on the footpath link on to the estate off Sleetmoor Lane. The lights also on the electricity poles on the ADASC football pitch side of Sleetmoor Lane are going to be located on the footpath side where people actually walk; something I have wanted to do for years!!

Lighting are being improved on Cockshut Lane, at Somercotes, due to the fact that the Electricity Board are putting the overhead electricity cables underground so the lights currently attached to the wooden poles will be now be free standing lamp columns.

Highways – the B600 Lower Somercotes has been completed and what a good job was done by the Contractors on the road, resurfacing and new drainage ahead of schedule and under budget. Quarry Road has been surfaced dressed again and the B600 from the Royal Tiger Public House to the car wash is to be resurfaced due to its failure and also a section of the B600 from Flowery Lees Lane to Victoria Street in Alfreton, all in the financial year 2013/2014.



Presenting Parish Council Section 137 Grant Cheque to the Air Cadets

Patching works on Birchwood Crescent, Langley Avenue and footpaths on Castle Drive are to be improved. The concrete traffic calming pads on Birchwood Lane have been reinstated and I have asked that they are re-marked and the road lining on there and Leabrooks Road are relined. We have also got the County Council to remove some of the yellow lines on Victoria Street as you come off Leabrooks Road on the left near to Printscene and a couple of car lengths outside the Hairdressers, hopefully this will free up about six to seven car spaces.

Through the planning process, J C Balls have contributed monies to Pennytown Ponds and have also agreed to divert a water course on their land and resurface the footpath from Cotes Park Industrial Estate through to the red bridge which was badly eroded. Five new jobs have been created as a result of this.

You may have read about badger culling taking part in various parts of the Country. We are pleased to have been part of the County Council's decision to support Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's vaccination campaign and not allow any culling to take place on Derbyshire County Council land. Not that we are a target County at this time but we have put these resources in place.

*Yours sincerely* Councillor Paul Smith Deputy Cabinet Member for Health & Communities Representing the Alfreton and Somercotes Electoral Division

## Somercotes Allotment Gardens

Somercotes Parish Council has three allotment garden sites Birchwood Lane Allotments, Leabrooks Allotments (Bridle Lane, Leabrooks) and Sleetmoor Lane (known originally as Flash Allotments). The Allotment gardens are run by the individual Allotment Associations, details are on the back page of the newsletter. The rise in local people taking allotment plots to 'grow their own' produce is now a big part of the community and a good way to save money, as well as having your own tasty vegetables to eat. An allotment plot tenancy is easy to obtain and low cost compared to many areas so if you are interested contact the appropriate allotment association.

**Birchwood Lane:** During the winter / spring months 15 new plots became available for tenancy and there are 7 or 8 still available. The Allotment Association is continually seeking to improve the site and would welcome new tenants. The site has porta-loos and an allotment shop to help tenants with purchasing seeds and equipment.

**Leabrooks Allotments:** The Allotment Association has in the past 12 months worked on improving the facilities installing new gates and new water stand-pipes. New 'Compus' toilets will be installed in the next couple of months, now planning permission has been granted, thanks to a £9k funding from the National Lottery 'Awards For All' award. The allotment site has a few full and half size plots vacant for tenancy.

**Sleetmoor Lane Allotments:** Many people will know the site as 'Flash Allotments' that has now been renamed as Sleetmoor Lane. For the last 2-3 years the site has gradually been reclaimed and brought back into use and last year a new water pipe line was re-installed to the troughs to provide water for members to irrigate their plots. The allotment association would welcome new members who would enjoy working the land. There are several plots available and a large area that could be reclaimed, should this be necessary.





# County Matters



If you want to report a matter to Derbyshire County Council you can ring 'Call Derbyshire' on 08456 058 058 They are open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm and Sat 9.30am-4pm



**Amber Valley Borough Council,**  
Town Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire Tel: 01773 570222

Planning applications can be viewed and commented on using Amber Valley Borough Council website [www.ambervalley.gov.uk](http://www.ambervalley.gov.uk) then click on the planning application register.



## Police Contact Numbers

If you want to contact the Police or Police Community Special Officers to give information or report crime you can telephone:  
**Crimestoppers 0800 555 111**  
**Non-urgent Police matters 101** (calls charged at 15p)  
[www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)

Please do report incidents. We are all aware that incidents such as vandalism, theft, etc. are occurring in Somercotes. However, unless the police have reports the assumption (based on reported statistics) is that there are no problems and the end result is that police resource will be redeployed.

## Other useful numbers:

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue	01332 771221
Central Networks (Electricity) (loss of supply helpline)	0800 056 8090
Gas Emergency line	0800 111 999
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Severn Trent Water (water leaks and bursts)	0800 783 4444
Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch	01773 572938
Victim Support Line	0845 3030900
NHS Direct	0845 46 47
UK Flu Information Line	0800 1 513 513
Amber Valley Housing	01773 573 100
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
<b>CRIMESTOPPERS</b> - Call anonymously with information about crime	

## Your Local Police

Panel Meeting Thursday 19th September 2013 6.00pm to 7.00pm at Somerlea Community Centre, off Sherwood Street

Surgery/Coffee Morning Tuesday 24th September 2013 10.00 am to 12.00noon at the Community Centre, Castle Drive

Surgery/Coffee Morning Monday, 28th October 2013 10.00am to 12.00noon at the Community Centre, Pennytown Court

## PROBLEMS WITH PESTS? WHO YOU GOING TO CALL?

Amber Valley Borough Council offer competitive rates for treatment of pests.

### NEW REDUCED PRICES

DOMESTIC RATS & MICE £35	DOMESTIC ANTS & WASPS £30
COMMERCIAL COMPETITIVE RATE	COMMERCIAL ANTS & WASPS £75

Concessions available for customers in receipt of a means tested benefit.

- Experienced and professional operatives
- Same day and next day appointments often available
- Other pest treatments available
- Members of National Pest Technicians Association

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL HEIDI OR KATHERINE ON 01773 841335**

\*Contracts for commercial premises available on request.

**Did you know** that Derbyshire County Council has a TRUSTED TRADER SCHEME?



## NEW LOOK DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TRUSTED TRADER SERVICE

Derbyshire County Council has a new-look Trusted Trader Service which makes it easier for you to find tradesmen you can trust. Derbyshire Trusted Trader can help you find honest and reliable traders who commit to doing a good job for a fair price. You'll find plumbers, builders, roofers, decorators, joiners, electricians, gardeners, retailers and many more.

Visit the website: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/trusted\\_trader](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/trusted_trader) and follow the instructions. Businesses can use the pages to find out more about the benefits of being a Derbyshire Trusted Trader and learn how to sign up.

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[www.printscene.com](http://www.printscene.com)

## BE ON YOUR GUARD!

It is hoped that everyone has enjoyed the Summer and the advice to beware of leaving doors and windows open prevented people becoming victims of crime. Now that we are entering the Autumn, the darker evenings will lead to opportunist crimes under the fading light.

- If you are going out leave a couple of lights on and a radio to deter unwanted visitors.
- Where possible, secure access gates to the rear of your property, preventing easy entry.
- Burglar alarms are a good deterrent.
- Park your car in well-lit areas and don't leave anything, especially valuables, inside.
- Good neighbours can help everyone prevent crime, so working together or forming a Neighbourhood Watch could be beneficial to your community area.

**If you see any suspicious incident or suspected crime in progress, dial '999'. For non-emergency calls dial '101' (15p charge).**

**Question YOUR Perception...**

Is the risk of FIRE something you ever consider?

**Question YOUR Perception...**

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service strongly advises that you consider the risk of fire to your home and family. By taking a few simple steps, you can prevent a fire occurring in your home, keeping yourself and your family safe from the devastating consequences.

- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm on each level of your home. Test your smoke alarm weekly.
- Plan your escape. Ensure your family is aware of what to do and how to get out if a fire occurs in your home.
- Plan a night time routine. Switch off appliances, close internal doors and remember to take a spare key and telephone to bed with you.
- Never leave cooking unattended. And try to replace your chip pan with an electronic deep fat fryer.
- Always ensure smoking materials are extinguished properly, use a deep ashtray when smoking, and never smoke when you are tired or in bed.

**Never tackle a fire Get Out, Stay Out, Dial 999.**

For further information and advice please visit our website [www.derbys-fire.gov.uk](http://www.derbys-fire.gov.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HANDY VAN SERVICE?

The service is available to those who are aged 60 and over or if you are referred by Derbyshire County Council – Adult Care, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, the District or Borough Council, Derbyshire Police, or Derbyshire Primary Care Trust. Each eligible household can access this free service twice a year. Please note, some materials may need to be purchased by the occupier.

You can phone and ask for a free visit to your home by your local Handy Van for the following:

- Home fire safety checks
- Smoke alarms provided and installed
- Home security checks
- Security equipment provided & installed
- Energy efficiency advice
- Practical tasks – for example: Changing light bulbs
- Securing carpets and Rugs
- Removing and handing curtains
- Checking stair rails are secure and appropriate
- Path and door access clearance
- Securing tap washers to reduce dripping taps, and other tasks as appropriate.



**For more information or to arrange a visit, please call your Handy Van Provider by calling Amber Valley – 01773 604426**



