

Warning after spate of burglaries

Police are calling on residents across Waveney to step up their home security ahead of the bank holiday week-end following a spate of burglaries.

In the last few weeks homes in Worlingham, Bungay, Wangford, Reydon, Gisleham and Lowestoft have been targeted, with jewellery, electrical items and clothes among the items stolen.

Two weeks ago, during the last bank holiday, two homes in Guildhall Road and Pepys Avenue, both in Worlingham, were broken into, followed a few days later by break-ins at three properties in Wangford and one at Gisleham. Last Friday a home at Hillside Road West in Bungay was burgled and a silver metal jewellery box containing costume jewellery and two watches was stolen.

Two homes at Rissemere Lane East in Reydon were broken into between last Thursday and Saturday, with a 42-inch Samsung TV stolen from one of the properties.

A break-in was also reported at Saxon Road in Lowestoft between last Wednesday and Saturday, when a gold St Christopher pendant, a pair of gold cufflinks and a Victorian diamond and platinum wedding ring were among the items stolen.

Detectives are investigating whether the incidents are linked.

DC Andy Barker, Suffolk Coastal CID, said: "Several of the properties that have been targeted have been homes where the householder is away on holiday and there have been no lights on or vehicle outside - in short there is no sign that the address is occupied. Leaving your lights on a timer device while you are out is a simple and inexpensive way of making it appear as though you are at home.

"If you are going away consider getting a trusted relative, friend or neighbour to look after your home, and perhaps think about leaving a vehicle outside it if you can. Any steps you can take like this can make a difference."

Police are urging residents to be vigilant and to call 999 if they notice any suspicious behaviour:

■ **More information on how to safeguard your home is available from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by calling 101, or visit www.suffolk.police.uk**

Boost to Help for Heroes

People are invited to a Help for Heroes charity day in Brundall tomorrow.

It will begin at 10am with Brundall Beavers collecting donations outside Budgens and Brundall Home Hardware.

There will be a children's fancy dress competition at Brundall Home Hardware at 1.30pm judged by veterans of The Royal Signals. At 7pm, there will be a ladies' pamper night at Brundall Memorial Hall, entry £2.50, and, from 10pm, the after party at the Yare public house.

Cheers! New brew will help keep historic wherry sailing on Broads

Stephen Pullinger

stephen.pullinger@archant.co.uk

There are certainly quicker ways to transport a firkin of beer between two Broadland villages - but none in quite such style.

With the nine gallons of Green Jack Brewery's special Jenny Morgan beer safely loaded on her foredeck the wherry Albion slipped away from her base on Ludham's Womack Water bound for Ranworth.

On a still May Day morning, there was not so much as a groan or creak from her sail and passengers on the ceremonial journey were able to enjoy three blissful hours of bird-song and silence save for the occasional passing motor cruisers.

The VIP on board was Tim Dunford, boss of the Lowestoft brewery, who has crafted the hoppy bitter to raise funds for the upkeep of Albion, one of two remaining trading wherries. One hundred firkins of the

“I used to fish from the deck of Albion when she was at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft for winter maintenance

Tim Dunford, Green Jack Brewery

specially brewed beer will be sold to pubs across the region with £5 from each one going to Norfolk Wherry Trust. Taking personal responsibility for the delivery of the first one to the Maltsters pub in Ranworth, award-winning brewer Mr Dunford, 49, revealed his lifelong affection for the wherry.

"When I was a youngster I used to fish from the deck of Albion when she was at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft for winter maintenance," he recalled.

The name of the beer, brewed with a blend of English and Polish hops, pays homage to folk song character Jenny Morgan who is immortalised as the figure on the wind vane at the top of Albion's mast.

Her arrival at Ranworth's Malthouse Staithe was greeted by the Golden Star Morris troupe from Norwich who ceremonially danced the firkin to the pub. Albion skipper and trust director Henry Gowman



■ The wherry Albion brings a firkin of beer to the Maltsters pub in Ranworth, and was welcomed ashore by the Golden Star Morris troupe from Norwich, pictured below. Pictures: JAMES BASS



said the trip also marked the 65th anniversary of the month the 116 year old wherry was rescued by the trust.

In the early 20th century, there were still more than 300 wherries carrying varied cargoes up and down the rivers. But by the time the trust was formed Albion was one of the last of the solid oak giants left.

■ **Most of the funds come from charters, but the trust also relies on donations and bequests. For details visit <http://www.wherryalbion.com/>**

■ **Are you involved in a project preserving part of Norfolk life? Email stephen.pullinger@archant.co.uk**



The history of the Albion

Albion was built by William 'Billy' Brighton at his shipyard on Lake Lothing between Oulton Broad and Lowestoft for a firm of Bungay maltsters.

She cost £455 to build and was launched in October 1898.

Albion was nearly lost in January 1929 when she sank near Great Yarmouth but was raised three days later. She had a further mishap in 1931 when she lost her mast but had it replaced with that of the wherry Sirius. Shortly afterwards she was bought by the General Steam Navigation Company, which changed her name to Plane and appointed a

new master, George Farrow, who remained with her until the Second World War when she was stripped down and used as a lighter.

In 1949 she was acquired by the newly formed Norfolk Wherry Trust who renamed her back to Albion, restored her and operated her full-time as a trading wherry until 1953 when Albion's hold was swept out and she spent summers as a crewed charter.

She continued to ply as a trading wherry but in 1961 the Trust decided that Albion would never carry 'dirty' cargo again.