

Burglars give their views on your home safety

AS spring and summer approaches, many people's thoughts turn to home security measures and how to keep their homes safe when they go away for a break.

Leading home security manufacturer, Micromark, questioned 30 convicted burglars and more than 1000 homeowners to get their thoughts on home security.

They found that an amazing 70 per cent of burglars said they felt people

do not make their homes secure enough, yet 65 per cent of consumers felt it would be very or quite difficult for someone to break into their home.

Some 67 per cent of burglars would be put off burgling a house that had CCTV installed, yet only nine per cent of the homeowners have CCTV. More than half of burglars questioned (57 per cent) said they felt they had less than a one in 100 chance of being caught and

convicted. Of the 1000 people questioned by Micromark, 22 per cent said they felt they would never get over being burgled.

The survey also found that, on a scale of one to 10, people feel that burglary, which scored 8.7 out of 10, is more stressful than divorce which scored 8.4, redundancy (7.3), moving home (7) and getting married (5.6).

Only the death of a relative (9.1) was deemed more stressful than

burglary. Over a quarter of those people surveyed (26 per cent) had been a victim of house burglary and more than one in five of the people who had been burgled (22 per cent) felt that they would never get over it.

Almost half of the people who have been burgled (47 per cent) said they are worried it will happen again.

Ken Madine, of Victim Support, said: "Burglary affects most people

badly, and in some cases, people may never feel the same about their home.

"If the worst happens, and you do fall prey to burglars, we are on hand to help. But even simple security measures can help reduce your risk significantly, which has to be a good thing."

Almost a quarter (23 per cent) of them said burglary is easy. Most (60 per cent) target homes which appear empty.

Profiles of the PROPERTY PEOPLE

Properties For Rent

Bo'ness – Links Road:

one bed, large living room/large kitchenette. Elec heating. Bathroom with elec shower.

£325 PCM

Bainsford – Main Street:

two beds, parking, large living room, kitchen. £400 PCM

Camelon – Union Street:

one large double bedroom, bathroom with elec shower, secure access. £325 PCM

Falkirk – High Street:

one very large bedroom, opposite M&S, very spacious, secure access. £375 PCM



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MD Anna said the blog was used to tell people what's going on. "It's a diary and a way for tenants to talk back to us," she explained. Started in April 2006, the blog has been mentioned by the BBC and covered in national papers and all staff contribute to it.

Company chairman Mark said: "It is the quickest way to let people know what we are up to."

Five people are employed in the Falkirk office – which is above the RBS opposite the Howgate – open from 2 until 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. Founded in 2002 the company now has five national offices with hundreds of properties. Falkirk's Norelle said: "Our staff speak Russian and Polish, we use IT and we are local, with economies of scale making us a national player."



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BRINGING Russel + Aitken's dedicated estate agency business into your property transaction can make any house sale or purchase as stress-free as possible.

Property manager Tom Anderson has over 25 years' experience of the Falkirk market and his colleagues also have vast experience in this field.

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Growing business

EVERYTHING about The Key Place is going from strength to strength.

The Bo'ness-based agency opened 15 months ago and has recently taken on additional staff and expanded its offices.

Run by Louise Trotter and Liz McKenna, The Key Place prides itself on offering a personal, tailored service to customers so they can find the home of their dreams.

This continual growth means Gwen Wallace, Lorraine Lennox and Clare Foster have joined the team, which also includes fellow agent Karen Clelland and two part-time staff.

The office at 19 Main Street, Bo'ness, has now expanded next door with the bigger premises able to cope with growing demand.